

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

JULY 18, 1994 \$3.50

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COMET CHASER

The Canadian
at the centre of a
spectacle on
Jupiter

Montreal
comet buff
David Levy

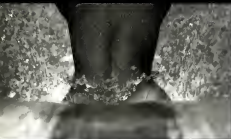




I will get first things best.

I will memorize clouds.

I will study a sunset. I will be naked more. I will discover a color.



I will be ambitious.

I will cut a wage.

Please tell your next owner to call 800-262-ENZO for a few dollars.

It's

different

out

here.

NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE



I will get a really good tan.

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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE
JULY 18 1984 VOL. 137 NO. 28

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Comet chaser

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Eclipse of the sun

20 One of the hardest tasks facing Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who met Canada's Jean Chrétien and other world leaders in Naples on the weekend, will be to prevent his unstable coalition from splintering.



Alluring Everest

44 Dramatic photographs taken by members of a Canadian expedition to scale Mount Everest capture the beauty—and the peril—of the world's highest mountain. The Canadians, drinking without bottled oxygen, came close to tragedy when one of them developed a life-threatening high-altitude illness.



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OPENING NOTES

Another hero scandal

Never ones to miss an opportunity to sneer at the United States, the British press has jumped on the O.J. Simpson case as the latest example of America's degenerate soul. Newspapers refer to Simpson's history of assaulting his wife Nicole, who usually accompanied by the station that who-bled in "America's dirty little secret." But perhaps the British should not point fingers. Last week, the Sunday *Mirror* of the *World* published a five-page confession from recent hero Paul Gascoigne. The 27, who admitted to assaulting his fiancée, Sherri Daye, several months ago, a terrified Daye, 29, left Gascoigne, promising him to publicly confess to a life of sin.



The Conyngham mansion: Like a piece of art—now either loved or hated

Fit for a magnate

The village of Rockcliffe, home to Canada's Prime Minister and Governor General, has had its fashions ruled by the ongoing construction of a 30,000-square-foot mansion—the dream home of high tech entrepreneur Michael Conyngham and his wife, Marilyn. As the founder of the successful Ontario software firm Corel Corp., Conyngham has never been known to hide his wealth, and the mansion is no exception. When completed at the end of the year, the home will include 120 Roman columns (inside and outside), a 54-by-44-foot, two-story master bedroom, his and her squash courts, 80 feet of walk-in closets and a 15-car underground garage. Half again the size of nearby 21 Sussex Drive, this 218-foot long and will be covered in reflective glass. The price tag: approximately \$5 million.

How do locals in the wealthy community feel about Conyngham's display? Despite rumors of anger swirling through the Ottawa establishment, most residents, including Conyngham, decline to comment. Rockcliffe building inspector John Grieson told Maclean's that the house is "like a piece of art. For other Jews it is like a local attraction. And anyway, he added, a lot of attention can be excited, since the Conynghams work so hard "in support of local charitable causes. Because here, it is hard digging money out of people in Ottawa."

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *The Omnivore*, John Gribble (2)
2. *The Delirious Poetess*, John Duffell (2)
3. *Twelve Red Horses*, Jeffery Archer (2)
4. *The Stone Woman*, Carol Shields (2)
5. *The Hat at Black*, Fredrick Forsyth (2)
6. *The Greening*, Corrie Van Der Wal (2)
7. *The Whiteheads*, S.J. Denham (2)
8. "90" in *For Kites*, Sam Goldwyn (2)
9. *A Way in the World*, P.J. O'Rourke (2)
10. *A Dictionary of Strangers*, David Foster (2)

(1) *Politics last week*

NONFICTION

1. *In the Kitchen with Paula*, Joan Dube (2)
2. *Life in the Third Dimension*, Dyle (2)
3. *Enlightened by the Light*, Betty Sells (2)
4. *Kids Are Worth It*, Barbara Coleman (2)
5. *Making an American Hero*, Chris Brown (2)
6. *A Natural History of Love*, Owen Johnson (2)
7. *Shooting Medicine*, Michael Smith and Carol Scharf (2)
8. *Along the Road*, David Palmer (2)
9. *The Agenda*, Bill Winkler (2)
10. *A Journey Through Economic Time*, John Decker-Guthrie (2)

Compiled by Robin Ross



Sex and the soccer fan

With all the debate in sports circles about whether soccer will catch on among North America's teenagers, consider looking for a different angle. It might be that for TV executives and potential sponsors, soccer is a more attractive proposition to ask whether they could better package the sport. Consider Italy, where it could never be argued that soccer interest is flat. Neither is Italian World Cup TV coverage. The television broadcasting

Harvest (right) and Parents: a ratings coup

network, ABC, has the country's latest hit show, which precedes its current season's debut. In secret, soccer fans have been buying into the program's success. Valeria Marini and Alvin Patterson sang, danced, ate, and traded early pines in between party commentary on the trials of the Italian squad—all the while clad in short, tight dresses and athletic leotards. "Being wiped in my job," says Marini. "You need a lot of stress to help distract people from everyday problems." The show also

PASSAGES

CONVICTED: R.C. St. John's Secret Battalion, 43, of criminal material for ducking a court injunction by participating in a highway road blockade last year on Vancouver Island in B.C. Supreme Court in Vancouver, after pleading guilty. Roberson, who was fined \$750 for his part in subverting the demonstration in 1988, faces a maximum of five years in prison when he is sentenced on July 26. He was among about 600 people arrested last summer for protesting against plans by Macdonald Island to log a vast forest around Capetown on the west coast of the island.

DEED: Patrick Charles Conforti, 35, the first artist to become director of the National Gallery of Canada, offered to direct before it has been in Ottawa. Conforti, whose major works include murals at the Toronto Stock Exchange and the National Library and Archives Building in Ottawa, directed the gallery in the capital from 1991 to 1993.

DEED: World champion chess player Garry Kasparov, 36, of Bismarck, Alaska, after being thrown from his rig and man overboard a vessel on the Pecos, Alaska, shipwrecked.

DEED: Playwright Michael Cook, 41, is hospitalized in St. John's, Canada, who immigrated to Newfoundland from Britain in 1965, wrote more than 30 plays, many of them exploring the province's history and culture.

DEED: Arthur Dick Sargent, 64, who played the beleaguered husband in the TV series *Doan's*, died from 1968 to 1972, of prostate cancer at a hospital in Los Angeles.

DEED: A world record for the 100-meter dash at 9.5 seconds by U.S. sprinter Leroy Brown, 27, in Lausanne, Switzerland, breaking one 100th of a second of the 1984 record held by fellow American Carl Lewis.

DEED: Canada's tradition to attend next month's Commonwealth Games in Victoria, by South African President Nelson Mandela, whose involvement in a scheduling conflict.

INJURED: Arthur James Herriott, 77, by a flock of black-headed sheep who trampled him and broke his leg when he tried to chase them off his land in Yorkshire. England's Herriott's books chronicled the life of a 50-year-old British woman.

Pyramid wars

Pyramids of pasta, which belatedly showed up, and weren't everywhere? It sounds obvious, but is it obvious? According to a new diet unveiled last month by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and the World Health Organization, a meal with fruits and vegetables is a sensible way to eat. A typical menu from the so-called Mediterranean diet, which might also include chicken, yogurt and fish, mimics the traditional meals of societies such as Greece and Italy, where rates of heart disease are among the world's lowest. But the appealing new regime went with a grain response from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1992, the USDA unveiled what was the best-known diet pyramid. It contains more specific guidelines than the Mediterranean model, and suggests four servings per day from a food group consisting of meat, poultry, fish and nuts. "We stand by our pyramid," said USDA spokesman Jim Lorick. "And we don't recommend it." Too bad, says Dr. Frank Sacks, an associate professor of nutrition at Harvard who acknowledges that the Mediterranean diet was presented in pyramid form as a way of inviting comparisons with the government's version. "The government pyramid was a step in the right direction, but they need to go further," says Sacks. "It is well-

established that wine in moderation can help reduce heart disease." The group intends to keep offering dietary alternatives, next year, they will present an Asian diet pyramid. But Rose Schwartz, a Toronto dietitian who advises the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, and maintains about how consumers might choose to adapt the new recommendations. "People benefit from diets and choose what they like from various diets," she says. "I can just see someone sitting down to eat, a plate with one meat and a glass of wine, the thing is what they eat is good for them."

The Mediterranean Diet



Gascoigne (left), Keyes no complaint

all attacks over a two-year period. Gascoigne acknowledged that abuse, which included grabbing her by the hair and being spat at, but he said, "I'm not even going to have a chance of getting back together. I've got to tell the truth." But he will not be charged with any crime, and had Chris Macdonald, because no one had lodged a complaint against him. "England doesn't have a justice problem with him, has it?" asked Macdonald. "It was seen as a way to get to the public." Just Gascoigne's dirty little secret, right?



1-800-837-p.m.
Smart Alarm: Mother and two
children in mall parking lot

The first alarm system designed to protect you as well as your car...

Revolutionary new vehicle security system is the first of its kind to focus on the safety of the vehicle driver as well as the vehicle itself

By Charles Anton

Do you wonder why car alarms have countless features to protect your car, but nothing to protect you? After all, what's more important: your car or the safety of you and your family?

Nice there is a car alarm that will protect you as well as your family. It is the first of its kind in focus on the safety of the vehicle driver as well as the vehicle itself.

Perfect yourself. It all begins with the panic button. Imagine you're walking to your car at night. You'll see a person approaching. Pushing the panic button, the panic beam on your transmitter lets you see your alarm with a warning siren and flashing headlights. While the panic alarm is on, your transmitter lets you see your alarm with a warning siren and flashing headlights.

Easy installation. Other car alarms are complicated or cost hundreds of dollars to install. Smart Alarm is inexpensive and you can install it in just minutes.

Exclusive features. Unlike other car alarm systems that begin and end their focus on protecting your car, Smart Alarm

also protects you and your alarm. That's the beginning of the Smart Alarm. In addition to the panic alarm, the Smart Alarm also has a car thief alarm. You'll never again have to wonder around a dark and dangerous parking lot, knowing your car is being stolen.

Range. Most car alarm features only work up to 100 feet away. All Smart Alarm features work up to 800 feet away.

Panic button. Smart Alarm lets you control help or alarm away from your car. Pushing the panic button, the panic beam on your transmitter lets you see your alarm with a warning siren and flashing headlights. While the panic alarm is on, your transmitter lets you see your alarm with a warning siren and flashing headlights.

Easy installation. Other car alarms are complicated or cost hundreds of dollars to install. Smart Alarm is inexpensive and you can install it in just minutes.

Exclusive features. Unlike other car alarm systems that begin and end their focus on protecting your car, Smart Alarm

Key installation. Installing the Smart Alarm involves no drilling and no wires. Simply Plug In Connector, let you install the Smart Alarm so it fits in your car's center console. Simply plug the Smart Alarm into the car's center console. The Smart Alarm is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. The Smart Alarm is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. The Smart Alarm is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console.

All you do is give up your car and activate the delayed panic alarm. When the alarm has reached a safe distance and it is no longer a threat to you, a flashing, 1000 Hz siren and flashing lights will let you know in five years, car, letting you recover it safely.

Vehicle protection. Smart Alarm's current sensor triggers the siren of the truck or car of the alarm is opened while the alarm is armed. To trigger the siren, a shock sensor, a shock sensor triggers the siren when it detects a shock to your car. Together, these sensors protect your car with built-in protection.

An adjustable shock sensor prevents the siren from being triggered by a shock to your car. Together, these sensors protect your car with built-in protection.

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The Smart Alarm Car Alarm - 200 (patent pending) is the first car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. It is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. It is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console.

800-992-2966 (toll-free) is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. It is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. It is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console.

CONTRAD INDUSTRIES is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. It is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console. It is the only car alarm that can be installed in your car's center console.



Throwing away a natural advantage

BY DIANE FRANCIS

A staggering 35 million tourists will come to Canada this year to see beautiful British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario's Blue Jays, Lucy Maud Montgomery's P.E.I. hometown or charming Quebec City. In none but a few fortunate regions. Fortunately for all of us, Canada is one of the world's most popular vacation destinations. And this is for good reason. The country is blessed with gorgeous scenery, mountains, safe and sophisticated cities, friendly people, great restaurants and hotels, charm, efficient transportation and world-class entertainment and sporting events.

In fact, tourism is one of Canada's principal competitive advantages. Unfortunately, there has been too little recognition by politicians of that reality. As they have done with so many of our economic advantages, politicians have mismanaged tourism over the years with their mindlessness and greedy policies, taxes and regulations. That enlightened governments understood that tourism should be a national priority. That is because it is based on economy by employing thousands of the least employable, often unskilled, workers. As the sector grows, tourism has been in billions of dollars. And one of every 10 Canadian workers depends on tourism for his or her livelihood.

But the news is not all good. According to a report prepared in May by the World Association of Canada, this country has fallen from the sixth-most popular global destination in 1980, measured in the number of visitors, to a 10th-place ranking last year—the largest drop of any country. Concludes the study: "Canadian politicians and government must reverse this deplorable record."

While slipping in world rankings, Canada has enjoyed a record splash in the numbers of tourists and dollars generated, thanks in large measure to our desirous dollar. In 1993, Canada's travel "deficit" shrank to

Government should make tourism a national priority—it employs thousands of the least employable, often unskilled, workers

\$7.7 billion from \$8.2 billion from the previous year—still far too high, but an improvement. The number of visitors from Asia and Europe increased by one per cent, including a record number from Germany (344,000, up 37.2 per cent) and France (382,000, up 18.7 per cent). Another 1.5 per cent more Americans came to Canada, for a total of 12 million, as well as a 5.1 per cent increase in British visitors to 588,000, and 3.6 per cent more Japanese for a total of 490,000. (Offering data was the fact that 17.3 million Canadians left the country to visit the United States, while 3.3 million travelled to the rest of the world.) The increase in foreign visitors was mostly due to the devaluation of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar. But greedy Canadian governments still impose too many taxes on hotels, restaurants, gasoline, wireless, airports and airlines.

"The impact of cities, hotels and taxes represents up to 50 per cent of gross accommodation revenue," estimates the World Association. "There must be a freeze. All levels of government must refrain from implementing taxes that inhibit travel for the reason that travel generates more gross

revenue revenues indirectly (through job creation and sales taxes) than any directly imposed taxes."

The Irish imposed the GST, income taxes, as well as costly housing requirements and regulations. The provinces also impose income taxes, sales taxes, business taxes and other levies on employers to fund employee benefit programs. Municipalities add property taxes, business taxes and various other special taxes. In addition, government spending and deficits contribute to higher interest rates and the lack of investment capital," the bankers point out in their study.

Governments should roll back taxes in order to give the stakeholders in this business more money to cut prices, make profits and further promote themselves. Governments should also do their bit to enhance promotion, but should do it in concert with the tourist industry and should do it by coordinating and targeting their efforts to areas of new potential growth. Canada spent only \$25.2 million for tourism promotion in 1993. By comparison, Japan's government out-spended \$400 million, Australia \$107 million, Italy \$134 million, France \$93 million, Britain \$73 million, and the United States \$84 million.

In light of such expenditures, it is truly amazing that Canada attracts the numbers it does. And while it would be the first to commend government efforts, I suspect government tourism bureaucrats spend too much on overhead and too little on promotion itself, governments should keep focus on the industry can better promote itself.

The Hotel Association is pushing for the creation of a Canadian Tourism Authority to market the country in a co-ordinated, efficient way. Right now, Canadian marketing efforts are shotgun and scattered through dozens of federal, provincial and municipal agencies. There are nearly two dozen agencies going in different ways, paying huge fees, in New York City, for example.

"Travel and tourism is the world's single largest industry," according to the hotel association brief. "It accounts for \$3.4 trillion in gross output according to the World Tourism Organization. International travel will grow to 1.5 billion in the next 10 years. Jobs are predicted to triple from 1990 levels of 204 million by the year 2005."

Canada can get a bigger share of this growing pie—and must. Tourism and hospitality already are big business in Canada, producing \$26 billion a year in revenues, more than earned selling any of the following: wheat, natural gas, pulp and paper, metals and minerals. It already generates revenues of \$25 billion a year and yields \$11 billion in annual taxes. Some 60,000 firms are involved in the industry, employing 1.2 million Canadians. Canada cannot afford to lose market for growing up the world. And the way to capitalize on this wonderful competitive advantage is for governments to play a more enlightened role by playing less of a role.

JUDGMENT DAY

A contrite Ovide Mercredi wins a second term

Over the next three years, Ovide Mercredi will owe a special debt of gratitude to three supporters. The first is the Saskatchewan chief who, while driving home from his weekly Assembly of First Nations leadership convention in Sisseton, heard on the car radio that a surprise third ballot had been called and raced back to the convention hall. The second is the Manitoba chief who ran into the polling booth with barely a minute to spare after someone forgot to mark him on a slip. And the third is an unknown chief whose vote proved crucial as Mercredi won a second three-year term as national chief of the AFN by a bare margin of three votes after nearly 16 hours of balloting and political maneuvering. Not surprisingly, it was a relieved and somewhat chastened Mercredi who stepped up to the podium of the nearly empty Sisseton convention hall. The second is the Manitoba chief who ran into the polling booth with barely a minute to spare after someone forgot to mark him on a slip. And the third is an unknown chief whose vote proved crucial as Mercredi won a second three-year term as national chief of the AFN by a bare margin of three votes after nearly 16 hours of balloting and political maneuvering. Not surprisingly, it was a relieved and somewhat chastened Mercredi who stepped up to the podium of the nearly empty Sisseton convention hall. The second is the Manitoba chief who ran into the polling booth with barely a minute to spare after someone forgot to mark him on a slip. And the third is an unknown chief whose vote proved crucial as Mercredi won a second three-year term as national chief of the AFN by a bare margin of three votes after nearly 16 hours of balloting and political maneuvering. Not surprisingly, it was a relieved and somewhat chastened Mercredi who stepped up to the podium of the nearly empty Sisseton convention hall.

For a man who had become a media darling during his first year in office, Mercredi had been widely hailed as the country's 12th premier and the most powerful native politician in his generation. Last week's bitterly fought leadership contest proved a sobering reminder that the accolades of non-native news media in the highly lit world of Indian politics. Unlike the opposition in many of the AFN's 633 chapters complained that Mercredi—who played a key role in negotiating the ill-fated Charlottetown constitutional accord—had become entirely too comfortable in Ottawa's corridors of power. That was just part of the political baggage that the 48-year-old Cree lawyer from Manitoba carried with him into his bid to remain the head of Canada's largest native organization. Among the other jewels the negotiation, on the eve of the convention, that after registering a \$122,000 budget surplus three years ago, the AFN, which represents about 530,000 status Indians, is now saddled with an accumulated debt of \$2.3 million.

But perhaps most damaging of all were the frequent criticisms about Mercredi's slow and sometimes-bureaucratic leadership style. Many chiefs concluded that they had to make appointments in advance if they wanted to see him and, even when they did meet, Mercredi did not take kindly to their advice and direction. Several members of the AFN's 12-member council of vice chiefs—elected by the chiefs on a

regional basis—charged that he failed to consult them before making key decisions. "If he really wants unity," said Ken Young, a vice-chief from Manitoba, "he is going to have to change his leadership style."

In the hours following his disfiguring victory, Mercredi admitted that he got the message: "People say I'm not a good listener and I think there is some truth to that," he said in an interview with *Mercredi's*. "I have gotten some advice from people in the past year as to how more before I respond, to allow others to talk. That is a change in my approach."

But if Mercredi was looking for a quick rapprochement with his critics, some of them signalled, in turn, that he was not going to get it. On the morning after the leadership election, the chiefs were supposed to reconvene for the conference's key policy session as native self-government. But so many of them either slept in or had already headed home that the session had to be called for lack of a quorum. When it became clear that the debate would have to be delayed, Mercredi, who had participated in a round of media interviews following his early morning victory, went to bed. "That isn't the kind of message to opponents such as Bill Erasmus, head of the Yellowknife-based Dease House. "He told us he would change," Erasmus told the handful of chiefs who remained at the arena. "He never changed. Who are we talking to? The walls? I don't know if he's having bedroom meetings or he's even in the hall, or what."

Apart from providing a forum for lingering rifts within the AFN, the executive for the session on self-government pointed to a deeper problem: the failure of the assembled chiefs to deal with matters of substance. Ottawa has made Manitoba the test site for its most ambitious initiative towards self-government, devolving authority to the local chiefs over federal programs for natives, with the eventual aim of dismantling the widely despised department of Indian affairs. The Manitoba experiment, and others like it, present a clear challenge to the AFN and its national leader, who has always stressed the need for a concerted effort by native leaders to convince the federal and provincial governments to pass a constitutional amendment establishing the inherent right of native people to self-government. Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, who lost his own bid for the AFN leadership to Mercredi in 1992, admitted that the Manitoba initiative is a source of some tension within the organization. "He [Mercredi]

supports it," Fontaine told *Mercredi's*, "but he wants it to be a national process."

The increased desire over self-government is just one of the immediate challenges facing Mercredi in his victory speech last week, he vowed to be a vocal participant in any referendum on Quebec independence. "I want to say to the First Nations in the province of Quebec," he said, "that we all share your mission for protecting your people... regardless of what happens in the future in respect of Canadian unity."

But in that, as in many other areas of public politics, Mercredi will speak in the voice of a perpetual outsider. Born in the northern Manitoba community of Grand Rapids, Mercredi has never lived on an Indian reserve—the home base for about two-thirds of the AFN's members. Because his Cree mother married a man of mixed ancestry, who was stripped of her status under the Indian Act. As a result, the family could not live on the Cree reserve, instead, his father trapped and fished outside the reserve's boundaries.

While Mercredi dropped out of school at age 16, he later returned—graduating with a law degree from the University of Manitoba in 1977. Seven years earlier, he had married Boyce Taylor, a non-native teacher on the Grand Rapids Cree reserve. The couple had two sons and a daughter before the marriage ended in divorce in 1977. (In March, after years of complaining that Mercredi had frequently failed to provide adequate child support, an Ontario judge ordered the AFN leader to pay Taylor about \$30,000 in retroactive payments.) Mercredi, later married Shoshone Indian, a non-native lawyer. The couple have one child, 12-year-old Danielle.

Following his surprise victory over Fontaine in 1992, the articulate, soft-spoken Mercredi became an instant media star. In the wake of the 1990 armed uprising by Mohawks near Oka, Que., and in the light of ongoing negotiations towards a constitutional accord, native issues had become an uncontested priority. Columnists Douglas Feister and Michael Ondaatje, the tabloid *Journal*, topped the lists of *Journal*, *Chapleau* named Mercredi one of the 10 most Canadian, and he appeared on a *Mercredi's* cover in full traditional headdress in March, 1992, the emerging champion of native self-government.

But Mercredi, the unlikely hero, was dramatically in the fall of 1992 over his role in negotiating the Charlottetown accord, which would have set a time frame for negotiating native self-government in the Constitution. After boldly declaring that he would have no trouble willing the deal to his people, he watched glumly as more than 60 per cent of natives rejected the majority of other Canadians in rejecting the accord in a national referendum.

Mercredi's identification with the failed accord haunted him during the recent AFN election—and may be one reason why he had to claw out such a narrow victory over much less prominent challengers: runner-up Willy McKay, chief of the Saginaw Lake band in northwestern Ontario; Mike Mitchell, former Grand Chief of the dayawonawa reserve near Cornwall, Ont.; Norm Sosa, a Huron from Quebec; and Denis Opatoshyn, a Cree lawyer from Saskatchewan. Many AFN members had complained that they had not been consulted enough on the deal Mercredi had struck with the first ministers. Significantly, that was the one criticism that Mercredi had rejected following his reelection. "We had one of the most democratic processes ever," he said. "I was to do it over again—I would do it the same way."

In most other regards, however, Mercredi struck a much more combative note, vowing to involve the chiefs on a regular basis in collective action against Ottawa. "Please come and help me," he said. "I need your help." Given the personality and policy rifts that continue to plague the AFN, he could easily have said his plea did not fall on deaf ears.



Mercredi: 'People say I'm not a good listener and I think there is some truth to that'

'A sordid soap opera'

A New Brunswick inquiry into sexual abuse reveals a shameful legacy

Long before he became a judge, Richard Miller was a crime reporter on the *Moncton Times-Telegraph* in the 1940s. Yet even the most sordid stories he covered then could hardly rival the grim tale that has emerged since he began hearings last November into allegations of sexual and physical abuse at the Kingscleave Youth Training Centre in New Brunswick. Miller maintains that he has made no snap judgments about whether the province's corrections system failed the teenage boys who were beaten, raped and isolated by former youth counselor Karl Taft and some of his co-workers. Still, staying objective must be hard. Miller has heard the anguish of Taft's victims, listened to testimony that official complaints about the sexual predator were routinely ignored, and seen evidence hinting at a conspiracy to keep Taft on the streets. Many or disreputable New Brunswickers, in truth, probably made up their minds long ago. For them it is simply a question of how far the legacy of abusive strokes throughout the province's correctional and justice systems.

No one disputes the horror of what occurred from 1965 to 1968 behind the training centre's locked concrete exterior, 15 km west of Fredericton. In 1966, Taft, now 58, pleaded guilty to 34 sex-related crimes and was sentenced to 13 years in prison. He wasn't alone: last September, a Kingscleave maintenance man, Hector Dupuy, was sentenced to five months in jail on five sex-related charges. Later this year, Wilton Raymond, a former guard, goes on trial for a series of alleged sex crimes. Police investigators also uncovered allegations that guards sexually abused residents—including one 15-year-old youth who suffered a broken nose, jaw and teeth after being roughed up by three guards. But perhaps the most sensational allegations are that Taft may have been protected at some of the highest levels of the justice system—and that even former New Brunswick premier Richard D. Field, who died in 2001, may have played a role at the scene.

Miller's job as chairman, his co-oper-



Taft after his arrest. Forbes (below): eight months after the inquiry began hearings. His sensational allegations continue to grip the entire province



whether the corrections officials and police did all they could to protect their charges—make young offenders aged 13 to 16—while avoiding damaging conclusions about civil or criminal responsibility. After 29 weeks of hearings—which resumed on July 18 following a three-week break—his inquiry is undoubtedly filling the gaps in a story that Miller, a trial judge, has likened to "a sordid soap opera."

The saga began in 1966, the day Taft, fresh from a stint in the Royal Canadian Air Force, landed a job as a youth counselor at the training center. Sometime that year, Taft sexually assaulted a young boy behind locked doors in the school gymnasium. The victim, Robert Parke, now in his early 40s, told the inquiry that he reported the incident to corrections officials but nothing was done—no booking pattern that would be repeated over the next two decades. As former Kingscleave counselor Michael Robinson told the commission, "I think we all failed."

All told, the inquiry estimates that Taft abused more than 100 Kingscleave residents. Forty-five of his victims have already appeared before Miller, many of them breaking down as they spoke of the evil done to them. They walked out of Taft's domain if they reported him. He need not have bothered. The truth was that Taft seemed inviolable: even former Kingscleave superintendent William Kyles got nowhere when he lodged similar accusations of abuse in 1972 to transfer Taft to an adult institution after learning of his dismissal as a scout leader when a nude photograph of a member of his troop was found in Taft's trailer.

The protective pattern might have gone as unchallenged had David Forbes not come to work at Kingscleave in 1966. The new youth counselor had heard stories about Taft's practices—the way he spent virtually all of his free time around the school, and no weekends liked to take his favorite students out of the institution on passes. Even so, a year later, Forbes was shocked to see the training counselor talking to a teenage boy and rubbing a key across the boy's groin area. Forbes urged the boy and two others who were also the focus of

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Canada NOTES

SOCIAL POLICY DELAY

Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy confirmed that the release of a federal discussion paper on reforming Canada's social safety net will be delayed once again. The document, which was originally promised in April and then delayed until July, is now scheduled to be made public when Parliament resumes sitting in September. Axworthy played down suggestions that the paper is being delayed to avoid stirring controversy during the impending Quebec election.

SETTING A DATE

Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson set Aug. 29 as the date for four provincial by-elections. At the same time, he ruled out holding a general election until September—fueling speculation that he will call a vote in late July for Sept. 12. Opinion polls show his Liberal party trailing the Parti Québécois in public support.

CHRISTEN AT THE VATICAN

Pope John Paul II urged Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to oppose birth control and abortion at a U.N. conference on population growth this fall in Cairo. Chrétien, who was non-committal about the request, met the Pope in the Vatican on his way to the G-7 summit of industrial nations in Naples.

CRIME PREVENTION

Justice Minister Allan Rock and Solicitor General Herb Gray named 25 people to a national crime-prevention council. The group includes criminologists, police, victims' advocates, business leaders, social workers and journalists. It is to act as an advisory body to the federal government and help share and exchange crime-prevention information, research and related activities across the country.

FIRING UPHELD

A Toronto judge upheld the firing of a perfume saleswoman whose employer said she smelled too bad to denigrate its products. Sharon Sigwalt, 52, was fired in 1991 by Calvin Klein Cosmetics (Canada) Ltd.

OVERRULLED

B.C. Supreme Court Justice William Cullen quashed search warrants that Vancouver city police had used to gather evidence in relation to the June 14 Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver. He ordered that photographs seized from the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers, as well as videotapes taken from Vancouver CBC television, be returned to the media outlets.



UNDERWATER MYSTERY: An international team of scientists led by Toronto physician Joseph Martinie spent three days aboard a 22-metre submarine that allowed them the closest glimpse yet of the remains of the Edmund Fitzgerald, a 729-foot-long iron-ore carrier that sank during a fierce storm on Lake Superior in November, 1975, and lies some 535 feet below the lake surface. The scientists hope that the videotapes they took of the ship will provide further clues to the mysterious sinking, which claimed 29 lives and was immortalized in the Gordon Lightfoot song, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.

A victory for Sikhs

A Federal Court judge in Ottawa ruled that 200th officers in the RCMP can continue to wear turbans while on duty. Justice Barbara Reed rejected a challenge to the policy brought forward by three retired officers and a former officer's wife from Alberta. They had asked the court to reverse a 1990 decision by former RCMP commissioner Norman Inkster that allowed Baljit Singh Dhillon, a Sikh officer from British Columbia, to wear his turban. The *Albertan*, who also gathered about 210,000 signatures on a petition opposing Inkster's decision, argued that it was unconstitutional for a religious symbol such as a turban to be incorporated into the uniforms of the national police force.

In her ruling, Reed agreed that police must act in a neutral fashion, free from bias because of political or religious allegiance. But she added that "the assertion that a visible manifestation of a Sikh officer's religious faith, as part of his uniform, will create a reasonable apprehension of bias is not based upon any actual

concrete evidence." Reed also stated that Inkster made his decision because of a desire not to discriminate against Sikhs and to demonstrate an acceptance of Canada's multicultural nature. "These are laudable objectives," she said.

Warning signs

A report by retired Quebec Appeals Court judge Albert Malouf concluded that the Montreal police force was unprepared, poorly equipped, inadequately supervised and untrained. Malouf was asked to look into most aspects of the force's work after a special police squad mistakenly killed Marceline Poiré, a 34-year-old black man, in July, 1992. But Malouf also investigated how Montreal police coped with other crises, including the killings of 14 Israeli students at the Ecole polytechnique in December, 1989, and four professors at Concordia University in August, 1992. "The Montreal police department is a force where the level of frustration is high," wrote Malouf. "This type of problems... has not yet reached a critical stage but is approaching one."

TROUBLED WATERS

American policy on Haiti flounders as thousands of desperate refugees attempt to flee by boat

On Independence Day in the heart of Washington, sculptor Michele Ruffini gazed on a patch of National Mall grass, curiously leaning on a rusty disk of steel with a cold chisel and hammer. It was sweaty work, following one end of an old oil drain into an invisible wall planer known as translation from his Creole French as "catalut tras." And the clatter and questions of a holiday crowd made it hard to concentrate. But Ruffini had reason to feel lucky, if only for the duration of his part in an eight-day Festival of American Politics, which featured demonstrations by almost 400 artists, poets, musicians and dancers from across the United States and 12 other countries. Ruffini is a Haitian who traveled to Washington from his homeland by airboat.

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

BY GAIL MOLLINS

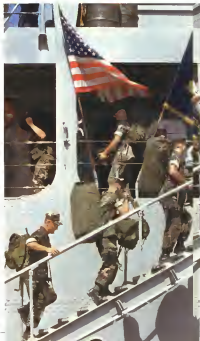
Just from training, poverty and time by forcing to the "land of the free." And as the U.S. capital last week celebrated American independence, including the folk songs inspired over the years by immigrants from Haiti and other lands, new policies announced in Washington only deepened the desperation of Haitians striving to escape to freedom.

On the Fourth of July, unknown at the time to Ruffini or the festive crowds on the Mall, events reflecting Haiti unfolded quietly and tragically.

- In the Caribbean, U.S. Coast Guard cutters pulled up 3,877 Haitian boat people seeking asylum, the largest one-day total in the Florida-bound corridor that began after military leaders deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Sept. 30, 1991. On 48 boats then, more than 60,000 Haitians have made nearly 100,000 attempts to flee to the United States.

- Off the Haitian port of St. Marc, about 80 km southeast of capital Port-au-Prince, hundreds of Coast Guard boats rescued 150 refugees drowned when their crowded boat capsized.

- At Port-au-Prince, Haiti's seaport capital, a U.S.



Coast Guard vessel returned 180 Haitian applicants for asylum after shipboard immigration officers ruled that they did not meet the basic refugee requirement, need of political persecution.

- In Miami, a Florida church organization arranged the relocation of 137 Cuban boat people who landed on the weekend, ending the total of Cubans granted entry to have done so in 1971. In the same month, the coast guard turned away 3,987 Haitians off Florida.

- In Managua, Nicaragua, at an international meeting on democracy, Aristide reinforced his opposition to the use of force to restore him to power. "We say no to the violence," declared the exiled president.

- In Washington, barely six blocks from the folk festival's energies and exotic food stalls, officials at the White House put the flunking teachers to an announcement, made the following day, of a shift in its Haiti policy, mandating the possible use of force.

The policy followed at mid hours of meetings under President Bill Clinton before he set out on a week-long European tour, was announced on July 5 by the President's special adviser on Haiti, William Gray. Broadly, refugees fleeing from Haiti would be placed in the U.S. Coast Guard would no longer be "processed" for possible admission to the United States, a program launched less than three weeks earlier. Nor would they usually be shipped back home to possible trouble, the practice that prevailed for the previous 22 months. Instead the local people are to be placed in nearby Caribbean camps. There they will stay until Haiti's military regime relinquishes power or is forced out, and Aristide is restored to office from exile in Washington.

At the same time, Gray and the Pentagon announced policy measures calculated to encourage Haiti's rulers to abdicate. Those measures also serve to indicate that U.S. policy, denounced by critics as racist, means to do more than lead off Haitian refugees. A telephone flood of 2,000 U.S. inquiries about 600 refugees already on its way off Haiti. The U.S. navy reinforced a fleet off Haiti. The U.S. navy reinforced a Caribbean fleet that includes eight U.S. warships, an Argentine ship and the Canadian frigate Terra Nova reinforcing UN trade sanctions imposed on Haiti. Meanwhile, else



U.S. Coast Guard rescues Haitians (left). Many Haitians board USS Portland bound for Haiti (right). (Military photo)

trauma had already conducted Florida rehearsal exercises in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. The "military option" remained a possibility but is not imminent, and Gray defined the situation on July 5 in "a few days."

The invasion option poses a serious political risk for Clinton and his Democrats, especially with congressional elections only four months away.

American voters and much of the mainstream media are wary of foreign military intervention. Many analysts agree that, although the 7,500 strong Haitian army might be easily overwhelmed, securing the mountains would state in any conceivable war and following order out of chaos in the aftermath are likely to require long and costly operations. In 1915, during the era of U.S. Black diplomacy, American forces occupied Haiti in a crusade against political anarchy, killed more than 2,000 Haitians and stayed for 20 years. In 2011, the manner used the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, and remained there for eight years. Nowadays, in the wake of a bloody decade in Vietnam, Americans will tolerate foreign wars only when they are quick and clean. Another factor, a National Security Council adviser Gorgon, a National Security Council adviser to former president George Bush, observes as a comment on the Gulf War is the current sense of Foreign Affairs: "Don't Stay" taught the American people, sensibly, that vital interests could be defended with a handful of casualties in a video-game war.

Domestic politics has been a governing factor in Clinton's handling policy shifts over the Haitian crisis. He is trapped by conflicting pressures. On one side stands a wave of popular opinion against intervention, including impoverished refugees who became a burden on overseas state treasuries. Populists in Florida and California are among states taking legal action against Washington to recover funds expended on poor migrants. That has become a festering constitutional

U.S. Coast Guard rescues Haitians (left). Many Haitians board USS Portland bound for Haiti (right). (Military photo)

issue, with Washington in charge of immigration but the states required to look after the welfare of new arrivals.

On the other side, Clinton is guided by the Democratic Black Caucus in Congress, whose pressure prompted his short-lived recent decision to admit some

Haitian boat people to the Illinois House of Representatives, where Clinton's presence has brought him too low by margin as narrow as a single vote. The President needs all the support he can muster for his much-disputed health-care reform and other proposals that he seeks to make law this year. Late last week, Black Caucus Chairman Kwame Kilpatrick of Baltimore called for air raids on military targets to make it clear to Haiti's rulers that "we are serious about destroying their capacity to continue their reign of terror." And he denounced Clinton's victims as "a policy of anarchy."

Even the latest Clinton policy run into trouble. Panama withdrew a promise to harbor 30,000 refugees in U.S.-built camps for up to a year. Washington is now expanding a camp on its base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and seeking other Caribbean sites. Canada's only response was to agree to have the Terra Nova pick up boat people and deliver them to U.S. ships in Montreal. Haitian community leader Eric Fassin and a "more constructive" policy would be to end that of a regime "causing these people to flee their country."

On the Washington side, a few days after the holiday, what does Ruffini think of his homeland's plight, of U.S. policy or the grinding prospect of a future held by the "Frodo of Haiti," Canada, France, Venezuela and Argentina? Could interpreters intervene to say that the 100 Haitians at the festival are not here to talk politics. What is that dog on stage under Ruffini's bonnet, two human figures holding hands? "Anansi," says Ruffini. Love.

By LINDA FARMER in Ottawa



Moriyama with Clinton at Naples summit: an unassuming debut

JAPAN

Eclipse of the sun

Political turmoil reigns in once-staid Tokyo

Throughout most of the postwar era it has been a model of political stability, an economic superpower and the envy of the industrialized world. For 36 years the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP), supported by big business and sustained by a powerful bureaucracy, governed the country virtually unchallenged—until last summer, that is, when disillusioned voters, sick of government corruption and clamoring for economic and political reform, unconsciously hosted the ruling party from office. Little did voters know, at the time, that they were opening a Pandora's box. But with one single party sweeping from elections with a pulverizing majority, attempts at designing a stable coalition government have since failed. And ramp Japanese, who, in the past year, have seen four prime ministers come and go, now predict that the "transition period," as they euphemistically call the current chaos, will last months, if not years. "We will have a general election in the near future, but one election might not be enough for a stable government," Nakano Naohisa, Japan's ambassador in Ottawa, told *Maclean's* during a visit to Western Canada last week. "We may need another election after that."

Moriyama, Hosokawa, Hata. And now, Moriyanaka. Foreigners, and even some Japanese, might be forgiven for wondering who is in charge and exactly what is going on these days in the land of the rising sun. Politics, the old adage goes, makes strange bedfellows. And nowhere have they been stranger than in once-staid Japan, where revolving-door politics have become commonplace, viewed by wary voters with a uniquely Japanese combination of bemusement and disgust.

Now expect that the latest prime minister, Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Tomiichi Moriyanaka, will survive long enough to overcome that cynicism. Moriyanaka, who became the latest Japanese leader on June 29, made his introductory debut at the economic summit of the world's leading industrialized democracies, the so-called Group of Seven, in Naples. He had gone to the annual meeting hoping to reassure the world that all was well in Japan despite months of political and economic uncertainty. But on the summit's first day, the 70-year-old prime minister was rained to hospital suffering from what was described as "stomach and diarrhea." He remained in hospital Sunday, missing the entire portion

of the agenda devoted to economic issues. It was an conspicuous isle-of-actors for the leader of a country that is several months has appeared anything but stable.

The turmoil in Japan dates back to last July's general elections, when Japanese voters tired of pork-barrel politics and angry at their Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's fail to enact long-promised reforms, turned their backs on the LDP. With no party commanding majority support, an unlikely and fractious seven-party alliance—including a huge number of LDP defectors and members of the leftist SDP—emerged to form a government under former LDP politician Morihiro Hosokawa. Defying his nickname, "Mr. Clean," Hosokawa promised to curb the power of the unelected bureaucracy, deregulate the tightly controlled economy and wipe out rampant government corruption. Most Japanese had high hopes for the 55-year-old maverick, whose initial approval rating surpassed 70 per cent. But Hosokawa was forced to resign in April when opponents disclosed that, earlier in his career, he had accepted money from a company with possible links to organized crime.

After much hectoring, the reformist coalition turned over the reins of the prime minister's office to former budget minister Tsutomu Hata of the right-wing Japan Renewal Party. Less than 24 hours later, however, the Socialists stormed out of the alliance, convinced that conservative coalition power brokers were trying to sideline—and split—their ranks.

The Socialists' defection left Hata, apparently by unaware of the bedeviling schemes, lead-

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ing the first election Japanese government since 1952. For two decades he tried to keep the alliance afloat. But on June 25, being defeated in a referendum vote, the hard-shake prime minister resigned—becoming the latest casualty of Japan's political bedlam.

The next step was even more surprising: Is a move that drastically altered the face of Japanese politics, the lower house chose Socialist leader Murayama to head a new three-party parliamentary coalition that in cludes not only his left-leaning SDP and a small grouping of LDP defectors, but also the LDP itself, which the Socialists have bitterly opposed for nearly four decades. In the past, the differences between the two major parties seemed almost insurmountable. The LDP was pro-business, the Socialists pro-labor. The LDP supported the United States, the Socialists sympathized with the Soviet Union and Communist North Korea. But these outward differences, say some observers, masked the symbiotic relationship between the two parties, both of which benefited from the status quo. "The Socialists and LDP politicians have always been in good terms," says Seiichi Eto, former director of the science and technology agency in the Hasekura cabinet. "It's the way Japan works—division is the sin here but compromise is inevitable."

For his part, a broadcaster Nobuhara says the instability stems not only from political corruption but also from the end of the Cold War. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Japanese politics was consistently divided into two ideological camps, one sympathetic to Washington and the other supporting good relations with Moscow. "Since the advent of the new era we cannot have such a clear-cut picture," Nobuhara says. "Now, all the parties must adjust to the new circumstances."

Many voters view the alliance as little more than a cynical power grab by Japan's Old Guard. "I am amazed at how easily the LDP and SDP teamed up," says Yukio Sasaki, a 35-year-old Tokyo office worker. "It's really quite disgusting, after all we went through trying to bring change in Japan." Added Non Sato, a 62-year-old bank employee, a traditional LDP supporter: "I want politicians to be strong leaders such as Nixon. Right now, I don't see anyone like that."

Murayama came out of his way to prove that he is indeed such a leader. "I leave people are worried about my government, both in and out of Japan," he said shortly after assuming office. "My job is to do my best to get rid of these worries. My responsibility is to provide a stable government as much as possible." But even Socialist party ally Nakao Norio has acknowledged that Murayama "will be making a very tough job."

In his newly appointed

28-member cabinet, Murayama, while keeping the seats for the Socialists, gave two to the small conservative New Party Shintosei and handed 13 to the LDP, by far the largest grouping in parliament. And commentators of all stripes repeatedly expressed doubts that the old left-right alliance could survive. "I don't think the new government is going to have a long life," says Robert Gurr, a Tokyo-based consultant with Morioka Japan Ltd. "Until the next election we held we are going to see a lot of jockeying for power."

Worst concerns many Japanese is the prospect that, as the incumbent, the new government will prove incapable of tackling the daunting array of problems confronting Japan. Among the most important is the three-year-old recession, which has thrown a wrench into the seemingly unstoppable

surged the new government to take "constructive action" in reducing its \$60-billion-a-year trade surplus with the United States. But there was no mention in the draft communique of the dollar's recent fall against other major world currencies, and only a loosely worded commitment to reducing global trade barriers.

Such hints, Japanese business leaders reason publicly, contributed to the cause of inflation only because of their desire to avoid further trade friction. "To solve the problem, Japan must devalue and open its market," says a high-ranking official with direct access to Sony Corp., who requested autonomy. "That is the only way to attract car trade into Japan with the United States. But it is important that the Americans also take some responsibility." Added Nobuhara Shikama, director



Car showroom in Tokyo: the recent fall of the U.S. dollar has hurt Japanese exporters

Japanese economic machine. On top of that, the recent fall in the value of the U.S. dollar—provoked in part by fears that Washington will be unable to resolve its long-standing trade dispute with Tokyo—has dealt a body blow to Japanese exporters. The dice could not have come at a worse time, as Japan attempts to clear its way out of recession and the U.S. economy shows significant signs of growth. A higher yen will make Japanese goods more expensive in North America and may force Washington to further increase interest rates to bolster the beleaguered yen—a move that could under- mine the U.S. economic recovery. The results could easily spill over to other Western countries, including Canada.

These concerns were high on the agenda as Nobuo Murayama assured U.S. President Bill Clinton and the other leaders that his government does not plan any drastic changes in foreign policy. Clinton, in turn,

of Wood Gundy Inc. in Tokyo. "Everybody realizes that devaluation has to be carried out. But the going is slow because it is difficult to throw away a system that has been the backbone of Japan's success for these years."

In the end, however, most Japanese appear confident that the country will survive through the current period of political upheaval. "The change in the government is not a dramatic one," says Mitsuru Shimada, an executive at Keireidai, the country's most powerful business association. "Only the framework has changed. The daily lives of the people have not been affected. Business has not been affected." He added: "The stockholders in government have proved to the people that they are useless." So far, Japan's voters may have a chance to pass their own judgment.

SCOTT NEEDHAM with JOURNALIST RICHARD in Tokyo and DAVID HENNING in Japan

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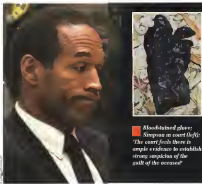
Mystery and blood in L.A.

O. J. Simpson will stand trial for murder

Valent dreams on a wall. A mysterious figure in the night. A bloody glove. As the preliminary hearing unfolded, the testimony offered in many plot twists as a mystery novel. Defense and prosecution lawyers had clashed repeatedly over two critical issues: Where was the former football hero when the couple was stabbed to death on the night of June 12? And did the bloodstain found at the scene of the crime come from a car or Simpson's hand? Finally, Simpson's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, asked municipal court Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell to dismiss the charges against his client. But after a brief recess, Kennedy-Powell ruled that there was more than enough evidence to suggest that Simpson may have committed the murders. She ordered him to be tried for first-degree murder and held without bail. Said Kennedy-Powell, "The court feels there is ample evidence to establish strong suspicion of the guilt of the accused."

The first days of the six-day hearing had been exciting for Simpson. Earlier in the week, he had suffered two major setbacks. First, Kennedy-Powell denied a request from Shapiro not to admit bloodstain evidence that the Los Angeles police had seized at Simpson's mansion. Led by deputy district attorney Maria Clark, the prosecution team sought to establish that Simpson did not have an alibi to explain where he was when the murders were committed somewhere between 8:00 and 11 p.m. on June 12, just three kilometers from the football field of these murder's victims.

Even these details, however, were briefly overshadowed by evidence about the sheer violence of the murders. Simpson himself cried in deeply emotional testimony (ironic Golden—the first prosecution witness in the hearing—used black-and-white drawings of bullets with red and black marks showing how Nicole Simpson's throat had been slashed with a knife almost from ear to ear, and Goldman viciously stabbed more than 20 times. "The evidence is circumstantial and



Bloodstained glove:
Simpson in court (left);
The court feels there is
ample evidence to establish
strong suspicion of the
guilt of the accused.

very powerful," said Clark in her summation. "Simpson has asked committed every crime that he is charged with."

According to Shapiro, the very cruelty of the murders supported his client's claim to be innocent. He said that whoever killed the couple would have been covered in blood. In fact, at approximately 11:15 p.m. on a scorching July 1 and related Simpson climbed into a limousine bound for Los Angeles International Airport. "There is not and cannot be at this point a strong suspicion that Mr. Simpson is guilty of anything," Shapiro said. "This is a case that must rest on the facts of the case."

But one of the most damaging pieces of evidence was a bloodstained glove that was found on Simpson's estate on the night of the murders. It matched another bloody glove found at the scene of the crime, and Shapiro

had fought to keep it from being admitted as evidence. Under U.S. law, police must believe an emergency exists before they can enter private premises without a warrant. Los Angeles police Det. Mark Fahrman told the court that when police entered Simpson's estate at about 2 a.m. on June 13 they found the blood-soaked glove and bloodstains on the driveway, as well as blood on the driver's door of a white Ford Lincoln parked in front of the mansion. And in her ruling on the admissibility of the evidence, Kennedy-Powell agreed with the police's decision to act immediately. Said the judge, "They reasonably believed that a further delay could have resulted in unnecessary loss of life."

Prosecution also took pains to establish that Simpson had ample time to murder his ex-wife and Goldman before catching a plane

home. Park then lasted the interview again and this time, Simpson answered. Said Park, "He told me that he had overheard. He'd just got out of the shower, and he'd be down in a minute." A few minutes later, both Simpson and Goldman appeared at the front of the house with luggage. Simpson got into Park's limousine and they left for the 20-minute trip to the airport at about 11:15 p.m.

Kucin later testified that he had gone to a nearby McDonald's restaurant with Simpson that evening. He said they returned home at 9:45 p.m. and that he went to the guest quarters alone and did not emerge from the building until he was disturbed by three loud thumps on the wall behind his bedroom at about 10:40 p.m. Kucin testified that he went outside with a flashlight, to investigate, but found nothing. Fahrman, however, later told the court that he found the bloodstained glove in a narrow hallway behind the guest house where Kucin had earlier heard noises.

Later in the week, prosecutor Clark focused on linking the glove found at the Simpson estate to the crime scene. As well, she attempted to show that bloody fingerprints, and droplets of blood on a path leading away from the murder victims, may have belonged to Simpson. Los Angeles police Det. Philip Vissachet testified that the blood droplets could have come from a small cut that police found on Simpson's left hand. He also told the court that he believed the first glove was dropped by the murderer as he struggled with one of his victims. The second glove, he said, was likely dropped by the survivor behind Simpson's guest house. Later, police investigator Gregory Mathews testified that blood found at the scene of the killings matched the blood type of the former football player. And he said only 0-6 percent of the population had that particular blood type.

Still, Shapiro was able to cast doubt on some of the police testimony. For one, under cross-examination, Vissachet confirmed that no bloody droplets were found on the Simpson estate. As well, he acknowledged that there was no cut or tear in the bloody glove to correspond with the small cut on Simpson's hand.

As the hearing ended, the mystery surrounding a bloody couple's marriage suddenly deepened. Two weeks ago, Kennedy-Powell announced that Simpson's defense team had turned over the package to another judge, who passed it on to her. She agreed not to open the envelope until she had discussed its contents with both sides. And at the conclusion of the hearing she told both Shapiro and Clark that it would be sent on, well sealed, to Simpson's trial—expected to begin no sooner than late September. The appearance of the envelope gave rise to speculation that it could contain the 38-caliber bullet that Simpson reportedly taught several weeks before the murders. But the nation's watching proceedings on television, the envelope is one just one more twist in a compelling murder mystery.

later that night to Charles Allen Park, the limousine driver who came to Simpson's house on the night of the murders to drive him to the airport, told the court that he first rang the latecomer at about 10:40 p.m. No one answered. Then, at about 11:00 p.m., Park and he saw a person, "was five [ft.], 200 pounds, black, wearing dark clothes," walking across the grounds of the estate towards the guest house. But under questioning from Shapiro, Park acknowledged that he could not tell whether the person he saw was male or female.

Park added that as the unidentified person entered the house, another car later identified in court as Brian Keith Kucin, a friend of Simpson who lived in the guest house behind the mansion, entered from a path at the side of the house. After Kucin waved to

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RISE ONCE AGAIN

Commercial real estate shows signs of life, but not in time for Trizec



The stragglers were unfazed as disgruntled investors gathered last week in the underground southwings of Bankers Hall, the Calgary office hotel that serves as head office for Trizec Corp. Ltd., one of North America's leading real estate developers. During four meetings spanning two days, four separate groups—secured creditors, unsecured creditors, preferred shareholders and common shareholders—voiced on a restructuring proposal that offered partial repayment of their investments. Three of the four groups quickly agreed to the latest proposal put forward by a partnership led by financier Peter Manick's Harshaw Group of Toronto. One, however, remained strenuously opposed. The unsecured debt holders voiced against Harshaw's proposal, hoping that a provincial court judge, who is scheduled to settle the case on July 19, will cut them a bigger slice of the Trizec pie. But neither Harshaw, which is proposing to invest more than \$1 billion in Trizec to return to control of the company, nor the company's secured creditors, who are owed almost \$1.4 billion, were willing to appease the juniors. "We're not taking a bigger pie," declared Harshaw spokesman Vince Burg. "There will be no more money from us."

Despite that confrontation last week, however, Trizec's protracted restructuring efforts, which began more than two years ago, are almost over. Most observers expect that Justice Gregory Fothergill of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench, who has been asked to rule on the statute, will approve Harshaw's bid to propose that none of its assets, neither its real estate nor its cash, be sold to satisfy its creditors. In fact, Trizec and the others are so confident of success, that after last week's meetings they unveiled a list of

proposed board members for the restructured company, including Manick as chairman. But even as Trizec's fate was being decided, two surveys were released indicating that Canada's commercial real estate market now appears to be on the upswing. "The national vacancy rate for office space, by far the worst segment of the commercial real estate market, fell very slightly to 15.1 per cent in June from 15.3 per cent six months earlier, according to a survey by realtor Royal LePage. "By 1993's announcement standards, that's good news," said Louis Burgess, executive vice-president of Royal LePage Commercial Real Estate Services in Montreal. "The market has turned around."

But after four years of sinking vacancy rates and falling prices, analysts are still not predicting a strong rebound. Even the public sector pension funds that have been "bottom fishing" in the depressed commercial real estate market say that they are not looking for a quick recovery. However, the best buying opportunities may have already passed. Says Charles Magnusson, president of SMERIS Realty Corp., the real estate arm of

States, including Royal LePage in Vancouver and Place Ville Marie in Montreal. Some of Canada's major corporate real estate divisions occurred at companies such as Canadian Corp. and Olympia & York Development Ltd., which were toppled by megaprojects such as OGI's Canary Wharf in London that soared in the recession.

Trizec's problems, however, were different. It suffered from the steady decline in real estate values and was underwritten by a few bad assets, including the unfinished Bay-Adelaide Centre that is likely to remain for years as a barren concrete monument to 1980s excess in the centre of downtown Toronto. But investment analysts say Trizec's worst asset was timing. The company, which is 35 per cent owned by Peter and Edna's Royal Bank's Canada Development Ltd., was in the unfortunate position of having \$1.9 billion worth of debt coming due at a time when Trizec's cash flows were squeezed and the financial markets shunned real estate.

Since Peter Manick, a Toronto banker who once presided over the overinflating of a rally in global gold prices last year deliv-

ered packages. The Harshaw plan will be left with only two or three per cent of Trizec.

It is that proposed division of assets, however, that upset Trizec's investors' condition. Richard Gray, a Toronto lawyer who represents the group of mostly accredited money funds, U.S. investors who speculate in buying distressed assets cheaply, says that they believe that the common shareholders are getting paid back too much. According to the established hierarchy of debt repayment, secured creditors come before all other investors because their loans are secured by specific assets. (In return for that security, these loans also pay a lower rate of interest.) Unsecured creditors take more risk, earn a somewhat higher rate of return and, in the event of a liquidation, have a claim on assets left over after the secured creditors have been paid. Preferred shareholders follow the two classes of creditors. Common shareholders, who take the greatest degree of risk in return for the highest potential return, are entitled only to what is left after all other investors have been paid.

In Trizec's case, that would amount to nothing. But in the interest of resolving the company's financial problems quickly, the secured creditors say that they have agreed to claim about \$100 million less than what they believe they are entitled to take, leaving it for the other investors. But the junior creditors, who are owed \$538 million, say that they have been able to achieve less than what they believe they are entitled to take, leaving it for the other investors. But the junior creditors, who are owed \$538 million, say that they have been able to achieve less than what they believe they are entitled to take, leaving it for the other investors. But the junior creditors, who are owed \$538 million, say that they have been able to achieve less than what they believe they are entitled to take, leaving it for the other investors.

But if Harshaw's proposed solution is not overruled, Bill L'Hernandez, Trizec's president, says the company hopes to complete the deal by July 25. Harshaw spokesman Rory adds that the next step will be to review Trizec's business plan. Says L'Hernandez, who has been confirmed as president and chief executive officer of the restructured company. "For the last two years, our plan was based on survival. Now, assuming that things go right, we're beyond the survival stage. We can lift our eyes a little bit and also for the future."

Whatever combination there may be in the hands of Trizec, the consequences is that the company's future growth depends on the real estate industry, overall—which will be very different from the boom that characterized the past 30 years. L'Hernandez says that he's the next three to four years Trizec expects to underwrite only



Trizec CEO Henry Ray (left), chairman Kevin Benson and CEO L'Hernandez, stressed

the massive Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. "Officiate the last time to her is when the assets are the most stressed out. Most of that has now passed." Indeed, with the imminent restructuring of Trizec, as well as the impending breakup of Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd., which used to be considered the finest shopping centre company in Canada, but which suffered a \$2.1 billion loss in 1993, most of Canada's leading real estate companies have now largely completed their bankruptcies or restructurings.

Trizec is one of the last companies to fall, as part because it was one of the best. It has a portfolio of 15 shopping centres and office buildings across Canada and the United

States, including its mining company, American Bank & Resources Corp. In April, Manick, through Harshaw, which has investments in gold, oil, mining and German real estate, devised a plan to bail out Trizec by partially paying off existing creditors and injecting new cash into the company. Joined as a partner by real estate venture Anglo Partnership LP of New York City, Harshaw said Anglo has agreed to put up between \$1.1 billion and \$1.2 billion in return for 30.5 per cent of Trizec's equity. Harshaw would get a 44.5 per cent stake in the company, while Anglo would take 31 per cent. Under that proposal, the remaining 24.1 per cent would be divided up among existing investors in part of their

Toronto's Bay-Adelaide Centre is in process to 1993's 1993

are new construction projects in Denver, Colo. "In the past, we might have reassessed a project like that every week," he told *Maclean's*. "People don't realize how overdeveloped the market, especially the office market, has become." In the future, according to Liffman, Trizec will grow primarily by acquiring undervalued buildings to build a critical mass of assets in strategic markets and then managing them more efficiently. Specifically, he says the company is interested in the Vancouver/Seattle area, as well as the southeastern United States, where the economies are recovering as a faster-than-average rate.

In general, however, future real estate investment is expected to require more focus on management and less on construction. At CMBS, which since 1989 has increased its real estate portfolio from \$500 million to \$2 billion of an total \$20-billion investment portfolio, Maywood says that proper managers will have to pay more attention to consumers than they have in the past. "Success in real estate," he says, "will be about things like air quality, whether there's a food court and how often the windows get washed."

Part of the shift in emphasis is precipitated by the changing ownership of major buildings. Brian Musyk, vice-president of real estate at the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board in Toronto, says that his group has

paid directly in proportion to the growth in population and in the economy. He says that despite the perception that growth in Canada will go into decline as the baby boom demographic bulge passes, the reality is that Canada's population will grow by 2.2 million during the 1990s, 300,000 more than during the 1980s. "Those are good numbers," said Musyk. "People just don't realize it."

That enthusiasm for real estate is touching other investors, as well. For his part, Ivo Chivuk, a Toronto investment manager and former real estate industry analyst, says that the Canadian market is due for an upturn. "There are always lots of people who at times like this, will argue that everything is different, the world has completely changed, and that real estate will never come back," says Chivuk. "It's all nonsense. I love real estate." Despite his enthusiasm, Chivuk and other experts recommend activity and caution. Adds Royal LePage's Bagnon: "It's no place for amateurs. For a while in the 1970s and 1980s, it seemed like everyone was getting into real estate. The industry suffered for that. There are sobering times. Even the pros are being very careful about what they do." If that attitude had prevailed 10 years ago, the hungry investors who gathered in Calgary to pick over the bones of Trizec might have got more satisfaction.

REXNDA DAWGLEN with JEAN ROBERT in Calgary

SPACED OUT

After years of steady rises in the vacancy rates for office space across Canada, the market has stabilized in the past six months.

| | Dec. 1993 | June 1994 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| VANCOUVER | 13.0% | 11.0% |
| EDMONTON | 14.2 | 15.6 |
| CALGARY | 16.0 | 14.6 |
| TORONTO | 18.5 | 18.3 |
| OTTAWA | 12.3 | 13.2 |
| MONTREAL | 17.8 | 17.8 |
| NATIONAL | 16.1 | 15.1 |

spaced \$1 billion investing in real estate in the last three years and other large pension plans have been equally active. Musyk says that he is optimistic about the growth potential for real estate because property values tend to en-

Dialling for dollars

The battle for long-distance business heats up

There is no escape. Nose Over the line several months, Tim, if any, Canadians will be able to open their mail, turn on a television, read through a newspaper, or answer the telephone or the front door without being approached at least once by an aggressive sales pitch to switch to another long-distance telephone company. Almost every one of the competing carriers—excluding Bell Canada in Ontario and Quebec, as well as some of the eight other former provincial phone monopolies in the so-called Starter alliance and dozens of new, private long-distance carriers—is offering savings of 25 per cent or more off regular long-distance rates. Each company also claims that the discounts that it offers are "as real" as the others. But that is not all. For signing up immediately, customers are being offered special bonuses, ranging from a credit for \$15 to a free month of phone calls or discounts when discount periods. By using an identity credit card to pay for calls, others can earn frequent-flyer miles or points towards the purchase of a new car.



Bel's retail store in Toronto: signing up for savings

The marketing deluge has been triggered by so-called equal access, which took effect on July 1 in Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic Canada and parts of British Columbia, and will be in place in every province except Saskatchewan by next June. Under a June 1993, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) decision, Canadians can

now designate any company as the principal carrier for their long-distance calls. In past, all calls were routed by dialling the digit "1" plus the relevant area code and number were routed through the Starter phone companies' systems. Customers wishing to realize discounts provided by United Communications Inc., or realizers (the term means brand of line that almost all of them lease lines from the phone companies), had to dial an extra seven to 17-digit code before the number to access the service. That has helped Bell Canada and the other Starter telephone companies to maintain a 99-per-cent share of the \$6-billion Canadian long-distance market. Not with equal access, United and the realizers are predicting that they will soon grab up to one-third of that business.

Models that such a shift is exactly what happened in the United States in 1994 when MCI, Sprint and other new long-distance companies were allowed

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to take on the giant American Telephone & Telegraph Co. (AT&T), Canada's Sprint group is fighting back with discounts and ad-watching companies of its own. "Our goal is to minimize erosion," says Dan MacNeil, assistant director of customer market management for Bell Ontario. Angling for the phone-unpacked business are half a dozen long-distance carriers—Laird, Sprint Canada Inc. and MCI TeleEnterprises Ltd., all in Toronto; the Markham, Ont.-based Sprint Talk Network; Toronto's Inc. of Montreal and Vancouver-based COMNET Communications Inc.—as well as forms of other smaller entities.

The marketing strategies that these companies are employing vary widely. Laird and Sprint are breaking heavily on advertising. Laird reportedly spent more than \$80 million on advertising last year. Carleton Cable, Canada's manager of public affairs, efforts to confirm or deny that figure, but adds that the company doubled its TV advertising starting in April. Sprint Canada is to avoid one TV commercial this week featuring Canadian Beers, the successful star of Sprint's U.S. TV ads. Being bilingual will help the company's services in both Quebec and in English Canada.

The Sprint Talk Network, by contrast, relies almost exclusively on its aggressive door-to-door sales force of 1,300 agents, which has won it 500,000 subscribers over the past three years. "People living in bed watching TV aren't likely to get up and go to the phone and order long distance just because they've seen a commercial," says Sprint Talk Network chief executive Mark Miller. The Sprint Canada team just has customers, but its company is trying to project "a business image."

Despite the blizzard of promotional material, it appears that many consumers are simply confused. "I've used five services, but I'm not sure which one I chose for the 1-plan service," says Mark Lawrence, who admits that he ought to know better—he is the technology-general-telecommunications-industry analyst for the Toronto-based brokerage firm Laurent Desjardins & McClelland Ltd.

Whatever company consumers choose, most industry analysts say that price differences will disappear as competition intensifies. But after the rush in long-distance rates last fall, many consumers are cautiously leery of rushing into long-distance rates to increase competition. Eventually, Bell and the other phone companies have cross-subsidized the cost of local residential service with profits from long distance. But as they move to market pricing for all services, phone company executives say they will have to ask the courts to let them bring other rates in line with costs. In Bell Ontario's case, MacNeil says the company charges an average of \$11 a month for basic local service, but the true cost is close to \$40. In the post-equity-structure initiative, province officials say will mean payments of more

WORKING IT OUT

Canada's national unemployment rate fell to 10.1 per cent in June from 10.7 per cent the previous month. Although it is the lowest rate reported since October 1991, the June decline was mostly due to the number of people who formally gave up looking for work.

TRADE TENSIONS

The U.S. International Trade Commission in Washington recommended that tariffs or quotas be introduced to protect Canadian cheese while exports. At the G-7 economic summit in Naples, U.S. President Bill Clinton accused Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, in a bilateral meeting, that resolution of the dispute over low-cost Canadian wheat shipments would be a personal priority. Earlier in the week, U.S. trade regulators failed—for the third time—to prove that Canadian softwood lumber imports are hurting the American industry.

A ROYAL CHAIRMAN

John Gagliardi, 52, will take over as chairman and chief executive of the Royal Bank of Canada. Gagliardi, who has been president of the bank since 1985, succeeds Allen Taylor, 62, who is retiring. Gagliardi will assume the job of chief executive officer in May 1, and his appointment as chairman will take effect following the bank's annual meeting in January, 1995.

THE NEW WATCHDOG

Stacy Labarge, 47, has been named as the acting chief watchdog for financial institutions. She replaces former superintendent Michael Heston, whose seven-year term ended on June 30. Earlier this year, Mackenzie complained publicly that unnamed industry critics had launched a campaign to block Labarge from getting the permanent appointment because she is a woman, a telephone and outspoken. Labarge was deputy superintendent for deposit-taking institutions at the office, which supervises federally regulated financial institutions and pension plans.

SELLING STEEL

The Quebec government has sold majority-owned producer Siderco-Donval Inc. of Montreal to the Mexican subsidiary of an Indonesian firm for \$45 million. ISAT Mexicana SA de CV will also have to acquire Siderco's 5200-tonne plant and will provide \$20 million in working capital. As well, ISAT has committed to spend \$180 million over the next five years to revitalize Siderco, which has 2,500 employees at three plants in Quebec and one in Ontario.

Business NOTES

Brewing a deal

Canadian brewing conglomerate John Labatt Ltd. expects \$200 million in August 20 per cent of Mexico's second largest brewer, Fomento Cervezas SA de CV. The agreement gives the Toronto-based company an option to acquire another eight per cent of its new partner, which controls about 48 per cent of Mexico's beer market, over the next three years. Labatt's chief most active officer, George Taylor, noted that domestic beer sales are flat because of an aging population, while Mexico's beer market is growing by five to seven per cent annually. He added that Labatt expects "double-digit" growth in earnings as a result of the Fomento deal. Labatt earned \$550 million last year on net sales of \$2.82 billion. Fyres generated \$1.9 billion of that revenue.

The company is planning to proceed with the previously announced sale of its 49 per cent of its non-brewing assets, which include stakes in the Toronto Blue Jays, the Toronto

Argonauts and The Sports Network. Fomento's holdings include a 20 per cent stake in the world and more than 600 convenience stores. The two companies will set up a joint brewing subsidiary to try to expand into the U.S. market.

At the same time, Labatt's domestic rival, Molson Coors Ltd., told shareholders at its annual meeting in Toronto that it was looking for new investments in other beer or



Taylor double-digit growth

the cleaning services business. Molson already has an international alliance with U.S.-based Miller Brewing Co. and an investment in Brewery Craft, of Mississauga, Ont., an international cleaning and window business. Molson also owns three investment businesses, including Beaver Lumber and an interest in Home Depot Canada.

The company reported net earnings of \$185.7 million for the year as revenues of \$2.87 billion ended March 31, 1994, compared with \$204.7 million on revenues of \$2.1 billion a year earlier.

Going for gold

Royal Oak Mines Inc. of Vancouver has launched one of the biggest mining industry takeover bids in Canadian corporate history. It is offering about \$2 billion to acquire all the shares of Lac Minerals Ltd. at Toronto. For every one Lac share, Royal Oak is offering \$275 in cash and 1.75 of its own shares. Alternatively, Lac shareholders may choose to receive 2.416 Royal Oak shares for each Lac share that they currently hold. At current market prices, the Royal Oak offer represents about \$195 per Lac share or a 50-per-cent premium over Lac's current share price.

Royal Oak owns four mines across the country, including the Giant gold mine in Newfoundland, where an explosion during a bitter labor dispute in September, 1989, killed nine miners and led to pending murder charges against one of the workers. If the hostile takeover bid for the larger Lac Minerals is successful, Royal Oak will increase Canada's biggest gold producer.

The takeover would also be part of a growing merger trend. A survey released by merchant bank Credit Suisse & Co. of Toronto last week revealed that the number of corporate mergers and takeovers recently jumped to a five-year high. In the three months ended on June 30 there were 288 mergers and acquisitions involving Canadian companies, a 20 per cent increase from the same quarter a year ago. The value of the deals was \$11.3 billion, up from \$9 billion a year ago.

In 1990, a record year, Canadian firms were involved in \$20.6 billion worth of mergers and acquisitions. So far this year, 258 transactions worth \$22.6 billion have already been announced.

The Credit Suisse report says that mergers and acquisitions are now driven by different needs than five years ago. In 1989, the drive for growth was largely led by predators looking for vulnerable or struggling companies. Now, firms are expanding with a view to competing internationally and expanding their grip on specific markets. Recent activity has been dominated by the financial services and communications sectors.

JOHN DALY



Rebounding from \$2 billion in debt

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

The forest products industry—Canada's largest employer—is not usually by far less successful than its peers. They occasionally do all three, of course, but the stereotype quickly breaks down, especially when it comes to George Petty, the combative leader, chairman and resident cheerleader of Bepap (paper spelled backward) International Inc., the \$3.4-billion Massachusetts paper maker.

New ranked as this continent's fourth-largest—and the world's 10th-largest—producer of coated paper took life in this game as it comes, though Macdonald is not one of Petty's customers. Bepap plays nearly 5,000 people up and in in British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Wisconsin. What makes the company unique is that Petty, 40, created the enterprise virtually by himself. The son of a Montreal railway clerk, he worked his way through McGill University, became a college basketball star and won the Canadian protected list, though the option was never exercised. After selling pulp for International Paper Company, he bought a rundown pulp mill in Timmins, Ont., on credit, and turned it around. Using it as collateral, he eventually borrowed enough to acquire the other plant to be acquired with that, after modernization new loans he engaged. In the process, he pioneered leveraged buyouts in Canada long before anyone knew the term, and at the same time managed to squeeze almost \$100 million in savings and loan paybacks out of various government agencies. His financing deals gave no completed that the banks (mostly the Royal and the Toronto Dominion, which together at one point held \$600 million of his loans) could never figure out when to pull the plug.

His banker with bankruptcy became long-standing, though he never went over the edge. As his business slumped because more undercapitalized, Petty frequently attacked his

Of accountants' 'generally accepted principles,' Petty says: 'They're not generally accepted, and they're not principles'

own accountants for following what they claimed to be generally accepted accounting principles. "They're not generally accepted, and they're not principles," he thundered. He kept the first game mostly by paying one creditor against the other. He took the company public in 1986 ("I'd just pulled up there on the national scoreboard and see how we're doing compared to the rest of the industry") and went on a spending spree to modernize his mills. Just as the current renaissance was beginning to take, Bepap found itself \$2 billion in debt. Subsequent interest payments grew so high that at one point, in the summer of 1993, the company had to open a positive cash flow for 25 months and had twice fallen out of compliance with some of its debt agreements. Petty responded by raising \$180 million through the private sale of convertible debentures, and then funded a further \$400 million by selling bank bonds.

That only injection was key to Petty's survival, but a cost has control of the company. Before these transactions, he controlled 70 per cent of the company (mainly through multiple-voting shares) and now he is down to a straight 24 per cent. "I'm still the largest

shareholder, and I haven't really lost control and somebody else with more equity comes along," he says. "Anyway, I'd rather own a quarter of something that's really good in stead of three-quarters of something that wouldn't have survived. I can be accused of a lot of things, but having a good sense of timing isn't one of them. We brought these new paper machines on-stream just in time for the long-winded recession."

In 1993, Bepap still suffered a hefty operating loss, and in this year's first quarter another \$34.5 million went down the tubes from revenues of \$365 million. But the market agrees that the company has turned the corner; its share prices are up to \$4.25 from last year's low of \$1.80. Friends attribute Petty's survival to higher forces. In his private life, Petty is an avid disciple of teleangelics. Rev Robert H. Schaller (that's the guy in the purple jacket) who presides from his headquarters \$10-million Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif. Petty has contributed considerable money to Schaller's ministry and asked him to bless one of Bepap's new paper machines.

Petty's greatest enrichment at the moment is explaining the benefits of the increasing oil prices, which yields qualitative gains and several hypotheses such as material for plastic mulching, agricultural films, and the stuff that goes into beds and clutch levers. Petty believes commercialization of the process, in which Bepap has already invested \$200 million, will eventually be recognized as his greatest contribution to the industry.

Meanwhile, Petty crosses the country, speaking out on any issues that strike him as significant, gesturing with his stock, two-inch finger to make his points. "The links between monetary policy and society's debts have broken down," he claims to anyone who will listen. "Chronic unemployment is disrupting the fabric of Canada and has caused a rise in professional sentiment that could compromise our economic goals." He blames John Crow, the former Bank of Canada governor, for having propped up our dollar too long, thus "breaking the back of entrepreneurship in Canada."

Although none of his paper mills are in Quebec, Petty lives and works in Montreal (where he's not at his Palm Beach, Fla., mansion) and deeply believes that Quebecers "will have the good sense not to separate, partly because they'll realize that there's lots of capital—now stepping away—ready and willing to come into the province and do many positive things if it stays in Canada."

It's typical of the man who, instead of becoming the bank he has had with Bepap's debt burden over the past half decade, now has attention as being Roberto-Cat perfect. "We have the best equipment in the business and have steered heavily in market penetration," he says. "So that what the securities called buyers. I call investment. We've got all our capital spending behind us, while our competitors still have it ahead of them." So there.



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COMET CHASER

Canadian David Levy co-discovered a major comet that is expected to crash into planet Jupiter



Levy: All of astronomy is going to stop. Every major telescope in the world will be looking at Jupiter



COVER

BY STACY JENISH

To the police who patrolled his Montreal neighborhood after dark, David Levy was known as the kid with the telescope. Occasionally, the officers would stop to chat with Levy as he gazed at the night sky from his parents' backyard on Belmont Avenue in tiny Westmount. Three decades later, at 46, Levy still scans the heavens with a backyard telescope. But now he lives in Tucson, Ariz., where about 100 astronomers for a living, and has discovered eight comets on his own. And despite his lack of formal training, he has also shared in one of the most startling astronomical findings of the century. In March, 1993, Levy, along with the husband-and-wife team of Eugenia and Carolyn Shoemaker, found a comet striking Jupiter that had fractured into 21 pieces. Scientists now expect the fragments to crash into Jupiter between July 16 and 22—creating one of the most spectacular events on record. "All of astronomy is going to stop," said Levy. "Every major telescope in the world will be looking at Jupiter."

As they prepared for the event, astronomers scrambled for words to describe their excitement. This will be the first time mankind has witnessed a major cosmic collision involving a planet and a large object such as a comet. Many scientists believe that a similar cataclysmic impact occurred on Earth 65 million years ago, wiping out the dinosaurs and most other forms of life. The effects on Jupiter—a gaseous giant 300 times larger than Earth—are incalculable. Some experts warn that the comet fragments could simply disintegrate when they hit Jupiter's atmosphere. But others predict that the fragments—possibly as large as four kilometers across and traveling at a rate of 60 km/second—could trigger a series of explosions each equivalent to two million hydrogen bombs and unleash fireballs that surge more than 1,000 km above the planet's atmosphere. "Fortunately it's not happening on Earth," says Levy with studied understatement. "If it were, we'd have more special effects than we could know what to do with."

But even if there are few spectacular visual ef-

fects, most astronomers believe the impacts will be a major scientific event. The comet fragments are expected to smash into the dark side of Jupiter and, at most catch, scientists will have to wait 40 years before the planet rotates and the impact sites can be seen from Earth. Nevertheless, hundreds of professional and amateur astronomers around the world—in places as diverse as China, Chile, India and Antarctica—will be watching Jupiter. So will the Hubble Space Telescope and several other specialized observatories. "We've contributed the whole planet's resources to look at this thing," says Keith Noll, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Scientists expect that the impacts will yield reams of new information about Jupiter—the solar system's most imposing planet and one of its most mysterious. Jupiter is believed to be a gaseous sphere with a small solid core, surrounded by several decks of cloud that could be 1,000 km thick. But astronomers have not been able to peer into the atmosphere because of its chemical composition. Some experts compare Jupiter's atmosphere to a sea of methane, a layer of clouds with a cooling, opaque surface. The impacts will disturb the atmosphere, just as an ice cube churns up a cocktail, and should allow astronomers a unique glimpse in to Jupiter's middle and lower atmospheres.

Comets, too, are among the most intriguing objects in the solar system (page 64). Astronomers believe that billions of comets were born of oxygen and carbon dust when the solar system was born 4.6 billion years ago. Occasionally, comets passing through the inner solar system are visible from Earth. They have brilliant tails and tails millions of kilometers long—comets when the sun rejects the icy nucleus. And they have been the source of love, superstition and even poetry. "Ice comets is very romantic objects," says Levy. "A comet that is very bright one night will have a different appearance the next. It's almost like their moods change."

But a comet requires extraordinary patience. Levy knows it is witnessing a miracle in a backyard—when the needle is moving. Fewer than 500 comets have been discovered since record-keeping became systematic over the past two centuries, notes Bruce Madden, director of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, Mass., the quarterly science agency that keeps track of celestial discoveries. He says hundreds of amateurs like Levy scan the skies every night, weather permitting, using the old-fashioned technique of looking through telescopes. They still make up to 30 per cent of the finds—making astronomy perhaps the only science field in which amateurs can still compete with professionals in cutting-edge discoveries.

Professionals now make most discoveries using photographic telescopes, which take pictures of sections of the sky. They later scan negatives for comets, which resemble fuzzy smudges. But amateurs and professionals share the same passion—a love of the night sky and the thrill of discovery. "When I look at my film, I'm not there in this strange and wonderful universe," says

Levy's collaborator Carolyn Shoemaker, who works almost exclusively with a photographic telescope at the Palomar Mountain Observatory in Southern California. "There's a joy in finding something and seeing it where you know nobody else has ever looked at it before."

David Levy became enthralled with the mysteries of the universe in the summer of 1940 when he was 10 years old and lost broke his arm in a bicycle accident. A cousin gave him a book on the planets and by the time he had the cast removed, his father, Nathaniel, a lawyer, and mother, Bessie, a doctor and geologist, had bought him his first telescope. Levy, the third of four children, was never athletic and did not make friends easily as a child, says his older brother Richard 51, a retired astronaut. "I think he found solace through the discovery of a telescope and connecting with the stars a spiritual experience."

By the time he was 17, David Levy knew enough about the stars, the planets and the planets of the night sky, to begin searching for comets, which are more passively. But his high school math and physics teachers were not hard enough to let him study astronomy at university. Instead, he took an undergraduate degree in English at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., and completed an M.A. on the 16th-century poet Gerard Manley Hopkins at Queens in Kingston, Ont. Levy married a Montreal woman in 1976 while attending university but, by 1980, the marriage had ended and he had resumed single.

Despite his attraction to literature, studying the stars remained his passion, and after receiving his master's in 1979, he moved to Tucson primarily because its clear night skies are ideal for observing. He found odd jobs in a research assistant at local observatories and he continued to search the skies from his own backyard with a 100-mm telescope. In November, 1984, he finally discovered his first comet. "I felt an enormous surge of excitement," he recalls. "I'd spent 15 years on this and finally had something."

By the late 1980s, Levy had established a career as a science writer. He had a column in the American magazine *Star & Telescope*, a monthly publication for amateur astronomers, and published the first of 21 books and guides on astronomy. His latest, *Get Your Comets* appeared earlier this year. In March, 1988, Levy found his fifth comet, and it changed the direction of his life. The Shoemakers, who live in Flagstaff, Ariz., had tracked the same object while observing at Palomar Mountain. Levy and the Shoemakers soon joined a lasting partnership. They now spend time to each other a year working together at Palomar Mountain, and have jointly discovered 12 comets.

Eugene Shoemaker, 66, a former geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey is the only trained scientist among the three. He spent much of his career studying craters on Earth caused by impacts from comets and their orbital courses, asteroids and meteors, which are rocky, ice-free objects traveling in space.

Shoemaker's wife, Carolyn, 65, who holds an undergraduate degree in history, spent most of her life as a housewife but began working with her husband in 1980 after the youngest of their three children left home. At first, she visually scanned images from photographic telescopes for asteroids and comets, although she has since developed her own innovative and sophisticated techniques. And within two years, she had made her first discovery. "I was on my way out of the solar system, and the images were so faint that I could hardly see them," she recalls. "It was an exciting moment that I could find them."

In early 1989, the southwestern United States experienced unusual

cloud cover prevented Levy and the Shoemakers from following their normal observation schedule. On the night of March 23, they were sitting at the Palomar Observatory, waiting for a break in the clouds. And it was at this night, through a combination of chance and good luck, that they made the observations that led to their big discovery.

Levy, anxious to get something done, convinced his partners that they should prepare their telescope to chase the stars down, even briefly. He also suggested using some film that had been damaged around the edges when someone inadvertently exposed it to light. They all expected the clouds to roll back as before they were done, so arriving and did not want to waste good film. They focused on a section of the sky that included Jupiter, but also in looking past the sun.

Two days later, on the afternoon of March 25, Carolyn Shoemaker was scanning the images captured on the damaged film on that un-augmented night. The moment she spotted the unusual-looking object near Jupiter is still fresh in her mind. "I was very startled and tremendously excited when I looked at the film," she says. "I turned to Gene and David and said 'I don't know what we've got but it looks like a



THE JOVIAN SKY
Jupiter's four principal moons: EUROPA IO CALLISTO GANYMEDE
Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet—photographed last November from the Palomar Space Telescope (shown)—will hit the dark side of Jupiter between July 18 and 22.



Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet—photographed last November from the Palomar Space Telescope (shown)—will hit the dark side of Jupiter between July 18 and 22.

pressed comet." Levy also vividly recalls his first as stunned. "We saw that fabulous-looking comet with multiple heads, multiple wings and multiple tails. Nobody had ever seen anything like it before."

The trio immediately sent a computer message to comet consultant Marsden in Cambridge to establish their claim on discovery. The strange new object, formally named Periodic Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 (1990c), quickly became the subject of intense study. Marsden and others calculated that it was orbiting Jupiter, which made Shoemaker-Levy 9 very unusual since comets normally revolve around the sun. On May 23, 1993, Marsden started astronomers around the world by announcing that the comet would likely collide with Jupiter. Other observers, working on more powerful telescopes than those available to Levy and the Shoemakers, discovered that the comet contains as many as 21 nuclei stretched out like a string of pearls.

But there were still many unanswered questions. David Yanozumi and Paul Chodura, two experts in orbital dynamics at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., unraveled some of the comet's recent history by studying 276 photos of the comet taken after



the discovery. They believe that Shoemaker-Levy 9 had been just an other cosmic wanderer whizzing through the solar system until about 1200, when it passed close to Jupiter and was captured by the giant planet's gravity. Yanozumi and Chodura calculated that the next collision in the comet's 45-billion-year existence had occurred on July 7, 1982, when it passed within 30,000 km of Jupiter. Even at that distance, the planet's gravitational force was strong enough to pull the comet apart and turn it into a trail of fragments. In its newly disrupted state, Shoemaker-Levy 9 began travelling away from Jupiter to a long elliptical orbit and by July, 1993, had reached the far end of its journey, 30 million km away. Since then, the comet has been travelling back towards Jupiter, and scientists have continued studying it to determine precisely when it would slam into the planet. Chodura says astronomers are convinced that they know within 10 minutes-plus an answer—when the fragments will hit, and that a near miss is impossible. They now predict that the first fragment will hit Jupiter shortly before 4 p.m. EST on July 16.

Despite the intense public and scientific interest, astronomers concede that they can only speculate about the impacts. There are, in fact, two big questions that they cannot answer. They have no way of determining whether each nucleus is composed of a single chunk of material or a swarm of debris. More important, they have not been

able to calculate the size and mass of the fragments. Estimates have ranged widely—from one-tenth of a kilometer to five kilometers in diameter. In simple terms, the bigger the object, the bigger the impact. "The key word right now is uncertainty," says Harold Weaver, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute. "We don't know what the odds are going to happen on Jupiter."

However, even when scientists rely on conservative assumptions, and estimate the fragments at one kilometer across with the density of ice, they can still hammer explosions on a scale that is difficult to comprehend. Marsden-Mark Blair Low, an astronomer at the University of Chicago, says the fragments should hit Jupiter at 60 km/second and beat the impact sites from -150°C to 30,000°C. The heat, equal to gas from the comet and from Jupiter's atmosphere should mix with atmospheric gases—50 million times greater than that of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

The impacts, and their aftermath, will be measured and recorded in dozens of different ways by hundreds of scientists all over the globe, and may yield one of the biggest scientific windfalls of the century. Weaver says Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 has already answered questions that have intrigued astronomers for years. For example, some of Jupiter's storms, along with some of the planet's, are pockmarked with strings of craters, and scientists now think they were caused by impacts from shattered comets like Shoemaker-Levy 9. "People were at a loss to explain when they came from till this object came along," he said. "For those of us who study comets, this has already been a spectacular event."

For Levy and the Shoemakers, the discovery and subsequent scientific interest have been a sweet reward for the hundreds of nights spent gazing by searching for comets—those that come up light in the solar system. The two will spend what has been believed impact work at observatories and science centers in the Washington area and will be able to use telescopes of the collections as they are sent in from around the world. Levy is leaving his current job at the Smithsonian in Washington for the event. "It's by far the most exciting time of my life," he says.

And the aftermath may well illuminate the rest of their lives. "I always dreamed about—about finding the comet of the century—one of the great visual comets with a tail streaming across the heavens that everyone can see with the naked eye," says Carolyn Shoemaker. "I haven't found one like that and neither has anyone else. But I do think we found the comet of the century, nevertheless." At this point, no one is betting with that assumption. ☐

Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker: "I always dreamed about finding the comet of the century."



CELESTIAL MYSTERIES

BY MARK NICHOLS

Some scientists fear a collision between a comet and the Earth

Towering 14,000 feet above sea level, the summit of Mount's Mount Kin is the site of 10 telescopes. On July 16, scientists at most of them will scan a variety of optical lenses and reflecting mirrors, infrared detectors and radio antennas towards a single distant target—the planet Jupiter. At the Canada-France-Hawaii reflector telescope, one of the largest on Mount Kin, Jello Caldwell, an astronomer from Toronto's York University, is scheduled to use the observatory's 3.6-m telescope in the hope of catching a glimpse of the debris trail as when fragments from the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 begin crashing into the planet. At a neighboring radio telescope, University of Lethbridge, Alta., astronomer David Ogilvie planned to use the highly accurate infrared spectrometer, which is designed, to analyze radiation from the impact. The data could provide clues to the molecular composition of the comet—and of Jupiter itself. "This is tremendously exciting," said Miller. "If the comet punches holes deep into Jupiter's atmosphere, then we may be able to gather valuable information about the lower atmosphere of the planet, that nobody really knows what lies happen."

The intense activity on Mount Kin will be repeated in observations around the world as scientists aim to glean every scrap of information from a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event. Much of the awe and mystery (historically associated with comets has faded). But scientists' interest in comets and asteroids is growing. Experts are debating whether a comet was responsible for the disappearance of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. And there is concern on the part of some American scientists and politicians over the possibility that someday a comet might be involved in a disastrous collision with Earth. Some American reports have even proposed preparing nuclear-armed rockets as weapons against incoming comets.

Certainly the planet has experienced massive comet and asteroid collisions in the past. Eugene Shoemaker will follow events from the Space Science Telescope Institute in Baltimore as the comet is re-discovered with his wife, Carolyn, and grandson David Levy's father, Jupiter. According to Shoemaker, a disastrous strike on Earth is unlikely in the near future. "The odds against it happening at the first stage of the age are very small—about one chance in 50 million," Shoemaker

told Marlene's "That it could happen." For now, scientists hope that the residue from between Shoemaker Levy 9 and Jupiter will shed light on the solar system's largest planet—a giant ball of hydrogen and helium with a diameter more than 11 times greater than the Earth's—and on the nature and composition of comets. Astronomers believe that comets originate in a belt of space debris that lies on the fringes of the solar system—about 5 trillion miles from the sun. There is no other,

some event—the gravitational tug of a nearby star or an interstellar gas cloud—always loose a chunk of the debris and sends it racing through the solar system. Scientists know that comets are essentially composed of frozen gases and interstellar dust. "The reason that scientists are excited about the collision with Jupiter," says James Matthews, a University of British Columbia astronomer, "is because we believe comets represent a kind of primordial material—the things that were around when the solar system was first created."



Bayern tapestry of Bulby's comet in 1096, when Norsemen feared the English, fighting fear

Comets once inspired not curiosity, but fear. In many societies, they were believed to herald evil events—the death of a monarch, famine, pestilence or war. In 1096, Halley's comet appeared before invading Norsemen forces defeated English soldiers in the Battle of Hasting. In 1684, when a comet appeared at a time when Turkish forces invaded Christian Europe, Pope Calixtus III reportedly mistook it for the comet. When two comets blazed in the skies above Mexico, the Aztec emperor Montezuma became so demoralized that he abdicated his

throne rather than oppose the day forces of Spanish invaders under Hernán Cortés who arrived in 1519. As recently as 1813, another appearance of Halley's comet so terrified members of a religious sect in Oklahoma that they attempted to sacrifice a young woman to pay the cost.

In the 20th century, the increasing fear of comets largely subsided—just as scientists thought that most of the comets that pockmark the planet were caused by volcanic eruptions. Then, Shoemaker and a handful of other researchers launched a series of investigations that found intricate internal and chemical clues proving that many comets were actually caused by the searing impacts of incoming asteroids and comets. The world's largest known crater in the United States—a wide, depression near Sudbury, Ont., probably caused by a comet nearly 2 billion years ago.

Concomitant still rages over the event that probably involved one of the largest space objects ever to crash to Earth: the comet or asteroid that many accounts now believe plowed into the planet about 65 million years ago. The massive impact, say the experts, was so powerful that it created fire storms followed by freezing cold and acid rain that killed vegetation—and decimated the dinosaurs that dominated the planet. During the 1970s, scientists uncovered geological evidence to support the theory, and set off a search for the crater that the rocky collision must have hit. In 1981, Alan Hildbrand, now an observational astronomer with the

Geological Survey of Canada, played a prominent role in showing that a vast crater was buried under Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula—and was probably caused by the impact that dominated the dinosaurs.

Just how big was the comet that may have killed off the dinosaurs? Calculating the answer depends partly on the size of the Yucatán crater, and scientists are currently locked in a debate over its exact dimensions. Hildbrand and Mark Pilkington, another Geological Survey scientist, maintain that the crater is about 176 km in diameter while a group of American scientists argue that it is much larger—between 350 and 360 km from rim to rim. Shoemaker estimates that the crater probably would have had to be 15 to 15 km in diameter to scoop out a crater 300 km wide. That, adds Shoemaker, would mean that the comet from 65 million years ago may have been just a little larger than Shoemaker Levy 9's 1995 hitler who about 23 years during its journey past Jupiter in 1993.

Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker and their colleague Levy have been in the forefront of efforts to create an inventory of the asteroids and comets that cross the orbital path of the planets—and could at some point collide with Earth. Asteroids—the rocky leftovers from the creation of the solar system 4½ billion years ago—are the most likely objects. Using one of the telescopes on California's Palomar Mountain to scan the skies, Shoemaker's team has concluded that there are probably about 2,000 potentially Earth-threatening asteroids with diameters of one kilometer or more orbiting within the solar system—and that, on average, one of them strikes the Earth's surface every 100,000 years. Comets can be much

COMETS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

There are more than a billion comets in the solar system. Most streak undetected through the vast reaches of space—becoming visible from Earth only when they approach the bright light of the Sun. Comet sightings have captured the imagination of scientists and lorekeepers through the ages. A sampler:

1. COMET OF 1096 BC

An ancient Chinese record contains one of the first historical observations of a comet. The Chinese called comets "broom stars," because of their long, sweeping tails.

2. COMET OF 712 AD

To the Chinese, comets were warnings of change. When this one appeared, an emperor of the T'ang dynasty abdicated to allow the emperor he was named follow.

3. GREAT COMET OF 1577

Swedish astronomer Tycho Brahe, measuring the angles of this comet with simple astronomical instruments, proved that comets travel in space, beyond the orbit of the moon.

4. COMETS OF 1664 AND 1665

Stories of direct supernatural "first" comet sightings were popularly believed to have caused the Great Plague of London. The second to have caused the Great Fire.

5. HALLEY'S COMET

English astronomer Edmund Halley predicted so correctly that he would be viewed in 1982 with return in 1758—that he was the first person to comet. Later, scientists found Halley's appearance took 2,900 years. Historical records show that Julius Caesar, William the Conqueror and Genghis Khan saw the same comet during their lifetimes. Halley's comet last appeared in 1996.

6. COMET ENCKE

First identified in 1796, this comet appears every 2 1/2 years. Most frequently seen by any other.

7. THE TUNGUSKA EVENT

A large, bright fireball or airburst exploded in the earth in 1908, devastating forests over thousands of square kilometers in Siberia.

8. COMET NEKHUTCH

Discovered in March 1973, Kometich was killed by some astronomers and by the media as the comet of the century. But when it reached its peak brightness last month, late, the unexpected airburst disintegrated almost everyone's worst nightmares, who posed advanced nations, were able to plot astronomical observations.

9. COMET WEST

This beautiful comet was discovered in 1976. One of the most spectacularly bright comets of the century, it went virtually unnoticed by the media, still emerging from the overlooked Kometich.

10. COMET SWIFT-TUTTLE

In 1992, Swift-Tuttle was identified as the second comet with the longest orbit. While it appears only about every 130 years, the comet is known before collisions with the Earth's atmosphere every 17,000 years. It is an increasing show of fireballs stars known as the Perseid meteor shower.



The Canada-France-Hawaii telescope is one of a lifetime astronomical event

larger, and they are far more numerous. Scientists calculate that there may be more than 100 billion comets of all sizes clustered in the Oort Cloud, a region on the edge of the solar system. Of them, only about three large comets, with average diameters of about 5 km, cross the Earth's path every year. And over 100 million years or so, one asteroid strikes the planet.

What saves the Earth from experiencing more comet strikes in the billions of years played by the giant planets Jupiter and Saturn, whose powerful gravitational pulls lure comets towards them—and usually send the skyboppers spiraling off into outer space. "After about 100 million years, 'objects' most of these objects," if it were not for Jupiter, he adds, Earth would experience comet impacts equal to the one that exterminated the dinosaurs "every million years or so. It's unlikely that under those circumstances higher forms of life could have evolved on Earth."

Still, the growing awareness of the power of asteroids and comets that might some day collide devastatingly with the planet persuaded the U.S. government to consider protective measures. In April, 1992, a committee of experts set up by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recommended a \$90-million program to build an new observatories to scan the heavens for incoming asteroids and comets. And some scientists proposed that, if necessary, nuclear-tipped rockets might be used to destroy or deflect any sizable space object that appeared likely to strike Earth. So far, NASA has agreed only to provide a fraction of the requested funding for the space-watch maintained by Shoemaker's group and two other teams of American astronomers.

The idea of employing nuclear weapons to deflect menacing space objects away from the planet prompted critics from some critics—and expressions of concern from others. In a letter to the London-based journal *Nature*, in April, astronomer Carl Sagan of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., suggested that the idea could be a double-edged sword, because an unscrupulous government could employ the same principle to turn its satellites into a super-weapon by dedicating it to smash Earth. Sagan argued that "in the light of well-documented human frailty and delinquency," the proposal could create dangers greater than the risks posed by asteroids and comets.

A different load of controversy flared during the last 1970s when the Nobel Prize-winning British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle and a St. Louis astronomer, Chandra Wickramasinghe, proposed that comets may have been responsible for bringing life to Earth in the form of chemicals—along with disease-causing viruses and bacteria. While most scientists reject Hoyle's proposals as unproven theories, there is a growing consensus that the debris from a comet bombardment billions of years ago did in fact bring vital materials to Earth, including oxygen, nitrogen, carbon and amino acids—key building blocks of biological life. Some scientists now believe that by doing that, the comets indirectly bestowed on Earth the breath of life—a gift that at intervals of millions of years, the cosmos returns to humans. □

'Holding a falling star'

The item will show up next year, buried somewhere in the fine print of the government accounts, down the alphabet to far from legends, just ahead of programs Meteorite: \$30,000. The federal government bought it from Stephen Forcier, shortly after it plunged from the heavens into a cow pasture on his farm in St. Robert, Que., on June 14. "I saw a ball of smoke," said Vital Lemay, who viewed the meteorite land in his neighbor's field. "Then, I heard something like a falling object." Now in the possession of the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa, the meteorite weighs five pounds, is shaped like a pumy pumpride, and is covered by a black, pockmarked skin of mineralized glass. It was bought in the name of science, and it holds clues to the origins of planets and the nature of the Earth's core. But even for scientists who can describe it in mind-boggling terms of technical precision, the lump at rock also holds mystery. "To be holding a falling star in your hand," says Hans LeCheminant, head of the Geological Survey's meteorology and chemistry section, "is so unique."

There is plenty of space debris floating around the solar system—asteroids



Forcier with the meteorite: space debris that holds clues to the origin of planets and the nature of the Earth's core.

and comets like the one about to strike Jupiter. Meteorites are fragments of dust debris that come crashing to Earth. The one now being examined in Ottawa is called an H5 Chondrite, meaning that it is made of stone, as opposed to one that is iron or stony-iron. And it is made up of minerals that also exist on Earth. It contains olivine and pyroxene, for example, silicates of magnesium and iron that are formed deep within the Earth. The meteorite is also studded with pure iron, which makes it strongly magnetic. On Earth, revealed some iron is rare because it mixes readily with oxygen or other elements to form iron ores.

Canada gets its share of space rock, with up to 40 meteorite landings each year. But most fall in uninhabited areas and few are ever recovered. The last one that ended up in federal government hands came down in 1977—making the latest find all the more astonishing to scientists. Collectors usually pay only about \$50 an ounce for meteorites. But the one that landed in Forcier's field fetched more than double that amount because it was fresh, falling into government hands just a few days after it crashed. Fresh meteorites are prized because they may still contain short-lived isotopes that could provide further clues to their origins. But then, any meteorite, when scientists get their hands on them, are prized for what they can reveal about deep space. "We all think, 'Wow,'" said LeCheminant. "That's what drives scientific curiosity."

WARREN CARAGHER in Ottawa

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ALLURING EVEREST

More than rock and snow and death'

Thousands have tried to climb the highest mountain in the world. Another hundred tried this spring—though spring seems an absurd concept in a place where the temperature warms to only 25°C in May, and the winds howl at up to 120 km/h. Of those hundred climbers only four made it to the summit of Mount Everest. Two of those perished on the way down, joining more than 140 others who have died on the mountain since New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Tenzing Norgay first conquered its perilous heights in 1953. And yet, when mountain nuts—flocking as snow over the mountain's peak—bracket the climbing season to a close at the end of May, those who failed to reach the top vowed to try again. "Yes, there's a great deal of danger," says Jamie Clarke, 36, the leader of a Canadian expedition that came close to tragedy as late May.

Clarke on the mountain (right); Clarke (left) with fellow climber Alan Robinson 'a great deal of danger'



Transmitting Melhuus down the mountain (right): A doctor leads to a recovering Melhuus, wearing an oxygen mask, at the group's advance base camp (below): The doctor said that John would live five minutes, maybe ten. But for sure, in an hour, he'd be dead.



Clarke's group attempted to scale the summit without bottled oxygen—a first that only 43 people, and no Canadians, have achieved. "But I don't think we were thrill-seeking," says Clarke. "Everest is more than rock and snow and death. It's been said to be the place where the gods live."

The gods almost claimed John Melhuus, 30, of Cranston, Alta., who got as close to the summit as any member of the Canadian team. On May 26, he reached 8,665 m, just 100 m short of the peak, when fatigue, cold and the oxygen-depleted atmosphere forced him to turn back. On the way down, he developed pulmonary edema, a life-threatening high-altitude sickness that causes fluid to flood the lungs. That was soon complicated by pneumonia. By the time Melhuus reached a team camp at 7,165 m, he was in desperate condition. A doctor who examined him there, recalls Clarke, "said that John would live five minutes, maybe ten. But for sure, in an hour, he'd be dead."

The climber's only hope was a rapid further descent. So began a daring rescue involving the Canadian team and local guides and mountaineers from other nations who heard about the rescue over radios. They lowered a semi-circumferential Melhuus with ropes over a 600-m slope of ice cliffs and crevasses. "Every time I went to look at him, I wasn't sure he would be alive," recalls Clarke. But Melhuus defied expectations, arriving six hours later at an advance base camp where he was put on respiration. Now, recovered and back in Cranston, Melhuus says that he would challenge the mountain again. "It didn't frighten me," he says. "I look at it as a learning curve." For climbers bent on testing their strength and their will, Everest's lure appears irresistible.

MARY MEHEITH

Field of passions

Soccer provokes jubilation—and despair

Even in a contest that about soccer, Colombia stands out as a nation obsessed almost beyond reason. Months before a pivotal World Cup game between their country and the United States in Pasadena, Calif., on June 22, Colombian sports commentators were predicting almost certain victory. The game would be an international coup, they said, a chance to show the world that there is more to their country than drugs

WORLD CUP '94

and violence. But the Colombians played poorly, and lost. Overweight, the heroes became villains, with the stooped backs reserved for Andrés Escobar, a 27-year-old star defender who is inadvertently accused as his own goal while trying to block an American pass. Ten days later, Escobar was murdered outside a Medellín nightclub by a man shouting, "Thanks for the one goal, you son of a bitch!" Demanded Colombia last week tried to understand how soccer lovers could turn into soccer psychos.

Some blamed Colombia's violent culture and the close ties between some soccer teams and drug cartels. Others, like Roman Catholic archbishop Denis Cordoba Hoyos, accused the media of stirring soccer passions to a limited pitch. "One must not exorcise Colombian emotions so much," he said. "It is very dangerous."

For the first time, North American fans are being treated to the live spectacle of the world's finest players competing in the planet's most popular sport. Against a backdrop of spectacular soccer games is an added flavor of sport-madness passion rarely seen in North American contests. Certainly, U.S. and Canadian sports enthusiasts are well acquainted with any type and violent riots triggered by football and hockey. But these sports have nothing like the emotional power of soccer. And although the Escobar assassination is clearly soccer passion at its darkest, the sport does seem to borrow deeply into national psyches like no other, fueling a win or loss into an event that is deeply felt by individuals.

"Sports like soccer become personal in a way that politics seldom do," says University of Toronto psychology professor John Hassall. "When fans shout, 'We're number 1!' it means more. If it means, they think of themselves as being the best."



Fans in Toronto's Little Italy caught up in the celebrations

Breakdown flags revealed ethnic neighborhoods in the wake of two recent soccer-related victories. But the most passionate behavior—acts of wildly exuberant celebration mixed with bitter violence—occurred far from North American shores.

People in Colombia say it has gone too far. National soccer team coach Francisco Barrera and some of his players received death

threats prior to the Pasadena game. After Colombia's elimination, Barrera resigned. And assistant coach Ricardo Daza Gómez reportedly refused to take over, saying that he feared for his life. Other players on the national team received police protection.

These developments helped fuel speculation that Escobar's murder was engineered by drug cartel members who may have bet heavily on the U.S. game and were seeking revenge for their losses. But police insisted that the killing was spontaneous. They said that a chauffeur named Humberto Muñoz confessed to shooting Escobar—no relation to drug king Pablo Escobar—who died in a police shootout last December—and that two brothers were being held as accomplices. Muñoz was employed by a man rumored to have bet on the Colombian team. In the aftermath of the murder, Colombian sports officials in their grief and shock, "People here are crazy," said Patricia Chiles, a diplomat in the capital, Bogotá. "I was saddened to see how it has harmed the image of the country."

The Colombian tragedy, though, was only the most dramatic in a spate of violently soccer-related incidents around the world. Last week, Italian coast is over their team's victory over Nigeria, celebrated fans and riot police clashed in another. During the festivities, a seven-year-old boy was killed in Herculano, near Naples, after his uncle publicly fired a pistol in the air. In Mexico, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari publicly chastised losing coach Miguel Mejia Barón for not using substitute players at a critical point in Mexico's second-round match against Bulgaria. And in Ireland, when fans came after Jack Charlton and said that he could not attend a homecoming party for his players, Prime Minister Albert Reynolds had to intervene to persuade him to change his mind.

The game, according to at least one du-hard fan, creates powerful emotions partly because of a grassroots camaraderie among those who have played it. "Everyone knows how hard it is to score that goal," says Jason Kyle, a 28-year-old transplant Scot and avid soccer player who now lives in Vancouver. "And when you have the ball, it's such a feeling of freedom." Even so, Kyle appreciates the bewilderment that many North Americans still feel in the face of soccer fever. "Soccer fans," he concedes, "are a wee bit crazy, to be sure."

FABRICA CERRELLA with GLENN GUSTAFSSON in Bogotá and ALBERTO RUIZ in Vancouver

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PEOPLE

A veejay with a mission

She may be an icon to Generation X, but MuchMusic veejay **Erica Elen** defies the accented poppy tag of "blacks." Elen and songwriting partner **Tim Theoray** have three singles in the Top 40 on Canadian country charts, and **Van Morrison** used one of their songs, *When Will I Be Home* in *Man*, on his latest live CD, *A Night in San Francisco*. As well, Elen has a regular role as an anchorman on the TV series *RockCity*, filmed in her hometown Toronto. And in September, she will add "soulful" to her résumé with *She Should Talk*, a book about real-life women in such diverse fields as jet fighter pilots and environmental activists. The theoray-accompanying film—two discs to be sure. Having grown up, opportunistically, in front of millions of viewers since



Elen adding 'soulful' to her impressive résumé

becoming a veejay 9½ years ago, Elen says she was "drowning" for several years. But she adds, "That's just the past—I survived. When you believe you can do anything, you can and you will." Call her living proof.

A message with teeth

In 1974 novel, *Jane*, sparked a black-shader craze—and a wave of shark-jamming that had people wondering whether they should go in the water. Now, novelist **Peter Benchley** says, "If I were asked to write *Jane* again today, I couldn't do it. I couldn't make an animal out to be a villain." So is his new novel, *White Shark*, the vil-ain a human—albeit a practically blind and very violent one. And beyond the novel's drills, *White Shark* bears a strong caveat:



Benchley: "I couldn't do it"

misplaced message. Benchley says that his material comes from experiences near the sea, he divides his time between what residence in Provincetown, N.J., and one on the Connecticut coast, where the novel is set. "I live where these people live," he says. "And I see that you can't eat the shellfish; the blacks are all mutated now; porpoises are dying of exotic viruses." Then, in mock alarm, Benchley adds, "And mutant albino monsters created by Mutts are coming ashore day by day."

Into the realm of the heart



Ackerman: 'Sensations'

It seems a natural progression: **Diane Ackerman's** 1989 book, *A Natural History of the Senses*, explored the experiences of human perception and struck a best-selling chord among readers. Now, Ackerman has gone a step further—into the heart—with her new book, *A Natural History of Love*. "The minute you start thinking about the textures of life," says the (Philly, N.Y.) based poet, author and naturalist, "you find yourself in the realm of love." In the book, she explores the wilderness and the origins of love, from ancient Egypt to the modern age—"the only good time for love is a very long time," she says. As for her self, Ackerman, who lives with artist **Paul West**, declined to talk about her personal life. "I promised my loved ones I would not discuss them," says Ackerman. A faithful heart artist.

Into the light

Prince Edward Islander **Leslie Galt**'s first two albums, *Breakwater* (1988) and *Delivering as Deliver* (1992), were widely successful on the East Coast. Now, armed with a new album, *The Open Window*, and the backing of a major record company, Sony, Galt's brand of Down East roots music is destined to reach a wider audience. And that could well put him in league with such popular



Galt's a change of focus

eastern acts as the **Haskins Family** and **Rita McNail**. "I think musicians on the East Coast have an understanding of traditional music," says Galt, "and just naturally have an element of that in their songwriting." While his last album was largely a biting commentary on recession and other social issues, *The Open Window* is more personal in tone. Does that mean Galt sees the world in a rosier light? Not quite. Explains Galt, "I agree I felt that, with getting up on the morning and reading all the bad news in the paper, I wanted to do something that was not quite as dark."

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The Jazz Age and a Pop sage

Two modern painters evoke the spirit of their times

The bored, sultry eyes of the naked woman gaze down and across Montreal's Sherbrooke Street, catching pedestrians and passing passengers in boxes and cars. When the huge banner hanging from Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) rippled in the wind, the woman with the dark eyes seems to sigh. She is the prostitute and model depicted in the highly stylized portrait *Rafaela as Gaea* (The Dream), created by Polish-born artist Tamara de Lempicka in 1937. Looking back playfully from another banner across the street, brochure from the museum's second wing is a blue cartoon eye and eyebrow snail of winking doom. It is a much enlarged reproduction of the 1964 painting *Shirley Waring* by Pop Art legend Roy Lichtenstein. The works of de Lempicka, star of the between-the-wars art scene in Paris, and Lichtenstein, star of the 1960s New York City art world, are the focus of two major retrospective exhibitions at the MFA. They capture the aura of two very different "modern" periods with styles that have come to define their eras.

Although neither of the shows was assembled by the MFA's, both are, from a programmatic point of view, spinoffs of previous exhibitions at the museum. Three years ago, the institution put together one of its most successful and successful exhibitions, *The 1930s: Age of the Metropolis*, which celebrated the spirit of that decade with painting, sculpture, photography, decorative arts and architecture. Among the local points at the exhibition were works by de Lempicka. In the fall of 1992, the museum mounted a comprehensive survey of the Pop Art movement, from its British roots in the 1950s to its heyday in the United States in the 1960s. Lichtenstein's comic-strip heroines, with their primary colors and bold outlines, were one of the most powerful images in the show. Both of these surveys drew huge crowds, encouraging the institution's director, Pierre Thibierge, to consider the current retrospectives. "These great exhibitions are a way of testing the waters for us," says Thibierge. "They're a way to look at what is relevant and perhaps go further."



De Lempicka's *Lady in Blue with Guitar*: self-portrait (legendary) capturing the woman of Parisian café society

The de Lempicka retrospective, the first ever assembled for a museum, organized at Rome's Centre Culturel Alessandro D'Adda, ran from 1991 until Oct. 2, a feature more than 50 paintings completed between 1929 and 1934. In recent years, the artist, who died in Mexico in 1937, has enjoyed a second wave of rediscovery. Jack Nicholson, in 1986, had enjoyed a second wave of rediscovery. Jack Nicholson, in 1986, had enjoyed a second wave of rediscovery. Jack Nicholson, in 1986, had enjoyed a second wave of rediscovery.

The artist was born Tamara Gorka in 1898 to a wealthy family in Warsaw. In her teens, she moved to Petersburg, where she married Tadous Lempicka, an attorney. The Russian Revolution forced the couple to flee to Paris in 1918. There, de Lempicka signed up for her first art class with Andre Bode, a leading exponent of Art Deco painting,

which combined the geometric elements of Cubism with a more accessible, realistic, vibrant colorist style.

Likely profoundly influenced by de Lempicka, but what made her a celebrated artist was the high society company she kept—and painted—as well as her beauty and colorful personality. She was also at the right place at the right time: Paris in the 1920s was a frenzied cultural hot spot. Her works reflected the hunger for life's pleasures that followed the hell of the First World War.

In Paris, de Lempicka painted portraits of the French and Italian aristocracy among whom she circulated. In such works as *La Duchesse de La Salle* (1925) and *Shirley Waring* (1933), she captured the woman of Parisian café society, with their cropped hair and dramatically made-up faces looking directly at the viewer in possibly lecherous clothing. She also portrayed their male partners, elegant princes and captains of industry. Her voluptuous female figures exude the seductive strength of the new, liberated woman of the time. "She is one of the figures who defined the 20s for us," says Thibierge. "One could not say that she was painter or that she invented an especially unique vision in terms of form. But in defining her period and her time, and in capturing her personality, she is strong."

De Lempicka herself became a celebrity and a glam figure like Greta Garbo. Her personal life was a scandal. Even her husband did not discourage her upscale clientele. But after she moved to the United States in 1938 with her second husband, the Baron Rodolphe Rattier, her output dried up, as did the attention paid her work.

In America, de Lempicka first settled in Beverly Hills and then moved to New York City in 1943. She was still there, and still painting, in the early 1950s when a group of younger artists including Andy Warhol, Chaim Goldberg, and Lichtenstein were pushing the edge of contemporary American art. The Lichtenstein retrospective, on view until Sept. 8, was organized by the Guggenheim Museum in New York last fall to celebrate the artist's 75th birthday. It features almost 100 major paintings and 20 sculptures, as well as preparatory drawings and collages. All executed between 1961 and last year.

At the beginning of the 1960s, the prevailing art movement in the United States was still Abstract Expressionism, whose stars included Jackson Pollock, Barnett Newman and Willem de Kooning. The Pop Art movement grew in reaction to the seriousness of that style. Lichtenstein was one of several rebel artists who were nurtured by the sense of nihilism and consumerism then sweeping the United States. Their art was inspired largely by commercial subject matter. "It was about as far away as you could get from traditional painting," Lichtenstein told *Artforum* during the opening of his Montreal show. "I wanted to do the things you weren't supposed to do."

Lichtenstein's images are called from everyday sources—comic strips, the Yellow Pages, news paper and magazine ads and consumer products. He not only borrowed the images from commercial art, but he also adapted commercial art techniques from the comic and advertising worlds. The black outlines, the big blocks of primary colors and the enlarged dots that represented the

screen-print process all became his trademarks.

In the mid 1960s, Lichtenstein began exploring the artist's role in the art world. He created what he calls "viewer studies" to attract his admirers, including *Flowers*, *Moonraker*, *Movie* and *Milky Way*. At its height of the 1960s, he had fun with these matters. He even toyed with one of the fundamentals of painting itself—the brush stroke. Lichtenstein's huge depictions of single brush strokes are custom like, mechanical reproductions done in a graphically commercial style. His later concrete sculptures of



Lichtenstein's *Forget It/Forget Me/I'm Fed Up With Your Kind!*

brush strokes completely remove them from their painterly roots. In all his works, from the cartoons to his pioneering of pop art by graphic artists, from the brush strokes to his pile of such serious masterpieces as *Art Deco* and *Superstar*, Lichtenstein's sensibilities subvert and celebrates modern art. His 1979 painting *Go For Broke* pays tribute to, while making fun of, his own development as an artist. It is a Lichtenstein collage—of Lichtenstein paintings.

Like the de Lempicka retrospective, the Lichtenstein showcase is an opportunity to see the images that marked an era. The two exhibitions are also a chance to look beyond the familiar images in each artist's larger body of work. The two creators made for an amazing juxtaposition. Whether it captures each of the modern eras, de Lempicka and Lichtenstein show how art has evolved during the century, from a largely decorative enterprise to an inquiry into the nature of art itself.

Bred in the bone

Violence was the Gilmore family legacy

SHOT IN THE HEART

By Mikal Gilmore
(Doubleday, \$24.95, pages, 328 pp.)

The story screams out for tabloid headlines: "Brother of executed killer tells all." The document that led him to death read: "Mikal Gilmore, brother of murderer Gary Gilmore, avoids the sensational aspects of his infamous sibling's fame in *Shot in the Heart*. Instead, he has written an unforgettable account of his domestic family life, an exploration of the violence and betrayal that marked much of them. That complex culminated in Gary's execution by firing squad in Utah in 1977, an event that became a media circus because Gary himself asked for the death sentence in stead of life imprisonment. *Shot in the Heart* is an insightful portrait of those and Frank Gilmore and their four troubled sons, two of whom were killed in an devastating fire from childhood. Mikal, the youngest, escaped the worst and went on to become a successful journalist with *Rolling Stone*. But despite his efforts to distance him self from his roots, the memories caught up with him. Coping with a failed marriage and depression, he began to realize that he hadn't escaped after all. Instead, it felt like the sins might be endless," writes Mikal, now 45. "and that the only way to stop a might be to stop the legacy itself—and the only way to do that was to crack open his god awful secrets, if I could find them."

Research for the book reunited him with his estranged brother Frank, now 54, the only surviving member of their family. With Frank's help, Mikal reconstructed a family tale so fraught with violence, misplaced love, loss and decay that it resembles a Greek tragedy. The author also acknowledges writer Norman Mailer and producer Laurence Schiller, who created a book and TV movie about Gary called *The Executioner's Song*. Schiller offered Mikal hours of taped conversations that he had conducted with Gary and mother Beane. Through those interviews, the author learned a great deal about his family history.

And what a strange, inglorious history it



Mikal Gilmore: his father's favorite, he escaped the worst

was. In 1927 Benne Brown, a rebellious daughter from a street Maroon family in Provo, Utah, met and fell in love with Frank Gilmore, a charismatic but secretive older man. Frank was the neglected son of a sugar beet mother who told him that he had been followed by the famed racist artist Henry Hoffman. Frank had worked in a telephone switchboard and a stuntman in Hollywood silent movies. Beane eventually learned that, before he married her, Frank had seduced at least two times and fathered several children.

By the time Beane faked up with him, Frank was a con man, collecting advertising money from clients for nonexistent publications. During the 1940s, the couple was on the run, moving from town to town all over the American south and west. By 1944, they had three sons in tow. Frank Jr., Gary and Gayle. Privately, Frank deserted the family, either to flee his responsibilities or

the law. At one point, he abandoned her and Frank Jr. at a gas station in Missouri, taking baby Gary with him. Frank ended up in jail on a bail-chance charge, while Gary, whom he had left on a park bench, was placed temporarily in an Iowa orphanage.

It was not until 1949 that the family gained any kind of stability. Frank gave up drinking and actually became a successful business man in Portland, Ore., publishing building code guides. But sobriety and success only made him meaner: the beatings that he regularly inflicted on his sons became more severe. He began hitting the boys with his bare fists, belts and razor straps, often telling them they lied through their jaws. Mikal was his father's favorite and mostly escaped the brutality. "When I think of what my brothers went through almost every week of their childhood and young adolescence," he writes, "the only thing that surprises me is that they didn't kill somebody when they were still children."

But Gilmore is not making simple equations about how child-beating turns children into killers. He does not defend Gary's shooting at two different times during his academic sobriety in 1959. But he believes that the humiliations were the culmination of a life seemingly programmed for destruction. He argues persuasively that domestic violence has far-reaching consequences, far everyone inside and outside the family. And Gary's experiences in reform schools and prisons—where he suffered and, in turn, inflicted every kind of assault—shaped a troubled adolescent into a hardened criminal, perfectly proud of his ability to take any kind of punishment.

What is remarkable about Gilmore's account is how each member of the family remains a recognizable human being, not a damaged monster. Even now, he writes, he still misses them—especially Gayle, who died in 1981 at age 26 from complications arising from knife wounds Gilmore's mother after 15 years with his grade brother Frank, who had turned his pain inward and became an alcoholic drinker, in especially among.

Gilmore's confessionals love—and even his occasional lapses into self-loathing—all the author has mastered. The author's mother often spoke of being forced by her father to watch a public hanging in Utah where she was a child, and how rich detail stuck in her mind. *Shot in the Heart* exerts the same kind of mesmerizing power: the spectacle is horrifying, but it is also up to the reader to

DANIEL TARRIDE

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The Right Hon. Wayne Gretzky?

BY STEWART MacLEOD

If Jean Chrétien has even a passing interest in prolonging his popularity with the Canadian people, as prime ministers are wont to do, a royal opportunity awaits him this fall. That's when Gav Gen. Remon Hastyshyn, the chap who upstaged Chrétien at the D-Day celebrations, ends his occupation of Rideau Hall through natural causes. His briefest term will be up. And should the Prime Minister give the slightest bit of thought to this lustrous plum posting, we can get a new governor general who, with a touch of help from neo-traditionalists, might possibly transform that office into something bordering on the meaningful.

Why, he must ask himself, has the position generally been a retirement haven for former politicians, many of them incompetently unmemorable, over the past 40 years? The question begs an answer: given the fact that even active politicians, at least the pasted ones, enjoy a popularity rating well below even journalists and neo-traditionalist notables. Four percentage points is bad polling.

The answer, to us, is obvious. Former politicians are appointed to the job by active politicians, need never be said. And despite Prime Trudeau's intention that politicians are "excluded" when more than 50 jets from Parliament Hill, the message hasn't got through. In fact, Trudeau himself seemed to forget it when he appointed his former minister and later Commons Speaker, Jeanne Sauvé, to Canada's top patronage post.

Prior to that, his erstwhile former Manitoba premier Ted Schreyer, a Rideau Hall where, aptly named, the expatriated expatriates, Roland Michener got his jollies jugged. And Hastyshyn designed ill-fitting military uniforms for himself, although nothing as ludicrously elaborate as the unaccounted admiral's outfit worn by Vincent Massey. Massey was the first Canadian born occupant of the 50-acre digni-

It is time to disqualify all the burned-out politicians and appoint a governor general who means something to all Canadians

Prior to 1952 the position was a sort of aristocratic dumping ground for friends of the Royal Family. Lord Tweedsmuir, the Marquis of Lorne, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Aberdeen, they all came to camp at the colony for a spell.

Incidentally, only one governor general has been known to make a significant decision on his own, that being Lord Byng who refused to dissolve Parliament as requested by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in 1926. Others, for all practical purposes, have been hangers of medals, casters of ribbons and annual buyers of Glad Day cookies.

But, getting this digression back under control, let's question why in heaven's name former politicians should continue getting the keys to Rideau Hall, particularly when the one notable exception, Gen. Georges Vanier, was, beyond doubt, the most popular occupant the job ever had?

There are absolutely no qualifications for the job. Being the Queen's representative in Canada demands no more than the ability to sign one's name, recite the occasional Throne Speech, and clank into a limousine, preferably without leaving a stain.

Not even viceregal dignity is any longer a

necessity. The Royal Family's vacillating marriage and thigh-fleeting children (celebrated occasions have pretty well looked after the remnants of dignity). And, oh yes, let's not forget the Duchess of York's innocent admirer who, with great ingenuity, used her ties as an abacus—no doubt because her ties were wearing a pretty color.

OK, now to the constructive part. If we're going to frequently burned-out politicians, who then?

Well, just about anybody, and historian Michael Bliss deserves full marks for suggesting hockey star Wayne Gretzky. A good choice, a direct, classical guy whom every reikindled Canadian would love to meet. And what could be a greater quality?

Just ask anyone who they would prefer hanging a gang around their neck. Wayne Gretzky or a former politician? By the way, during D-Day celebrations, the newspaper USA Today identified the Governor General, our head of state, as Lord Wilkes of Polesel. But they'd recognize Gretzky.

Moving right along, and while speaking of hockey players, there's great difficulty in choosing between Gretzky and Jean Beliveau. The former Montreal Canadiens star is superior (as every Canadian would love to have visit their school and declare the viceregal hall-holiday). If ever there was a class act brought into this world it's Jean Beliveau.

Absolutely no serious talking on Kildas Hill either.

Then there is Anne Murray who, as strongly suspects, has a much wider following than any governor general you'd care to mention. And just think of the TV ratings for a Christmas songfest from Rideau Hall. Or a July 1 songfest. Or a May 25 songfest.

Lord Byng, the last a better profile (aka Lord Minto, wherever the hell he came from, look it up).

Another pleasing prospect is comedian Dave Broadbent, whose contribution to Canada's well-being is probably greater than the combined efforts of all previous governors general. How can't get anything else out of \$100,000-a-year Rideau Hall, let's go for the occasional giggle. The Queen's kids should be expected to provide as with all the laughs.

David Cherry? No, perhaps not. But there's always Stephen Tom Connors. The field is, in fact, wide open. Although there should be serious reservations about any CBC personality with a background in public affairs. A weekly round of viceregal "news" will necessitate an every conceivable Canadian problem in not usually what's needed, neither more.

Actually, if Mr. Chrétien dangles a few jets and tactics, a royal tradition of truly historic proportions, and get into a (dreadful) mood, he might consider a 5th appointee. Just think of the fun drawing up new dress codes for visiting leopards.

Can't see, Chrétien, there to be different. Otherwise, try Beliveau.

Stewart MacLeod is Ottawa columnist for Thomson News Service.



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